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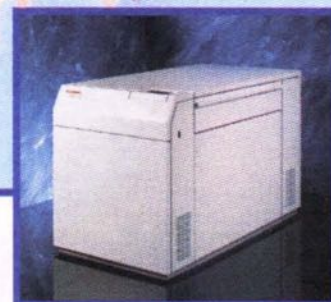
# Computer PLAYER

February 1996

Volume 5 Number 2

Free

# Working with your Service Bureau



# Digital Video Editing on your PC

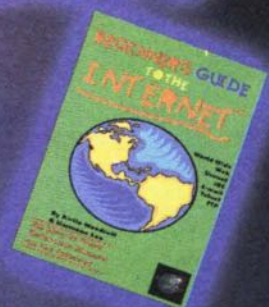




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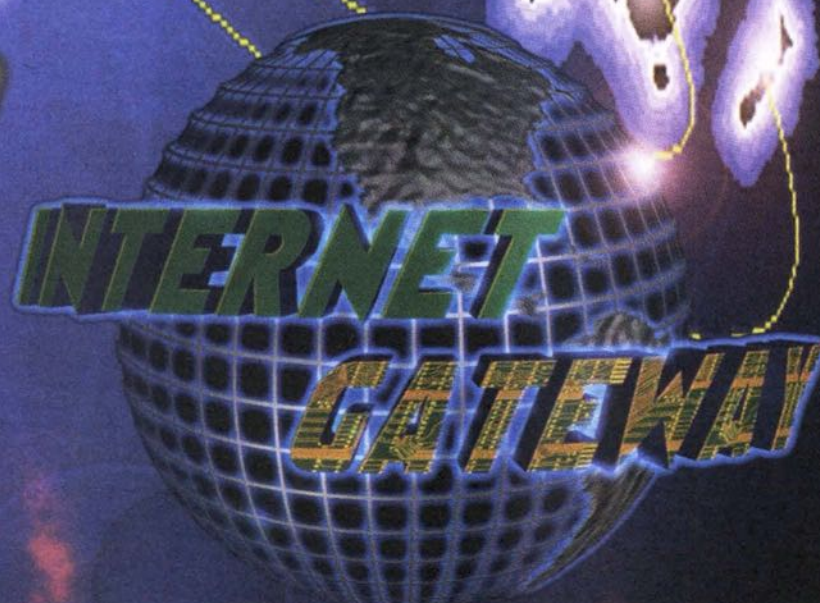


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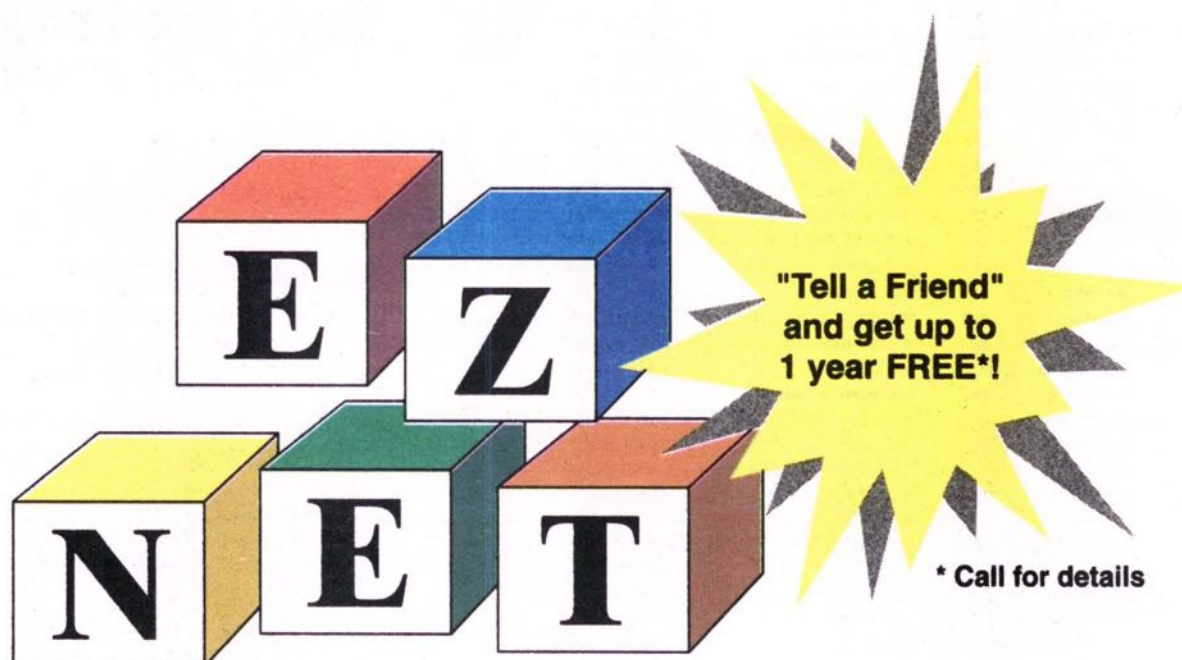
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### Omega Ships First Jaz Drives

Omega Corp. says it has begun shipping its 1GB removable disk Jaz drive.

The company, based in Roy, Utah, notes that limited quantities of the internal version are being provided "to key partners within the professional audio and video industries." Omega adds that it expects to begin shipments of internal and external Jaz drives to retailers and others in the first quarter of 1996.

Recent press reports indicated that Omega might be forced to delay Jaz shipments. The company has experienced serious backorder problems for several months on the parallel port version of Zip, its 100MB removable disk drive.

### Epson Unveils New PC Cards

Epson America Inc. has introduced two new plug-in PC cards designed for use in portable PCs.

The EHDD340 is a 340MB high-density hard disk card. Epson says the Type III PC card is rugged enough to withstand 750Gs of impact and still execute media transfer rates of up to 6MB per second and interface transfer rates up to 12MB second. The unit is scheduled to become generally available later this month for US\$599.

Epson's EFM288XJ is a 28.8K bps data/fax modem card. The Type II card features a pop-out XJack connector that allows hookups to standard telephone lines. Epson notes that the EFM288XJ complies with all major data/fax specifications. The unit will be bundled with Windows and Macintosh fax software. The card is set to ship later this month for US\$299.

### Mobile Computer Sales to Rise

Worldwide mobile computer sales will more than double from \$30 billion in 1995 to nearly \$80 billion by 2001, growing at an 18 percent compound annual rate, projects market researcher Frost & Sullivan.

A study issued by the company, which is based in Mountain View, California, finds that portable computer sales are growing twice as fast as desktop PCs, with some companies replacing desktops with portables.

The study notes that plug-in PC cards will increase their share of market revenues from 4 percent in 1995 to 9 percent in 2001, while pen and palmtop computers will hold steady at 2 percent each and portable printers will decline from their current 1 percent market level.

The study states that while pen handwriting recognition technology has improved, pen computing will not replace keyboards. The study also notes that personal digital assistants (PDAs) will continue to succeed in niche markets, but will need improvement before they become the mighty industry predicted at their introduction.

### Lycos Gets CFO From Disney

World Wide Web search engine provider Lycos Inc. has named Edward M. "Ted" Philip its chief financial officer.

Philip, who was most recently vice president and assistant treasurer of The Walt Disney Company, will oversee all of Lycos' financial activities.

At Disney, Philip was responsible for several innovative financing transactions,

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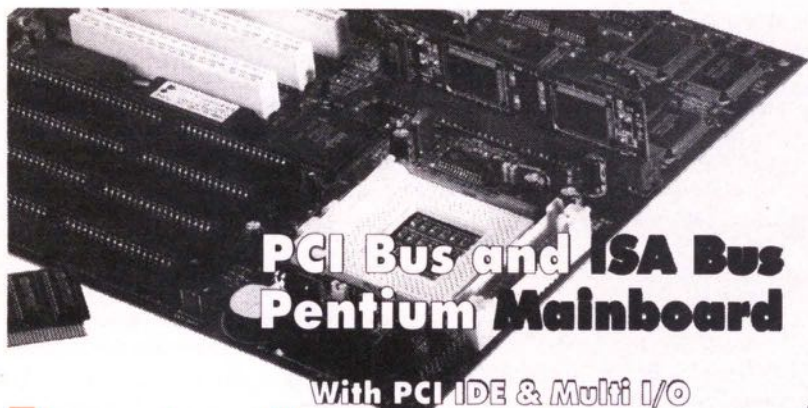


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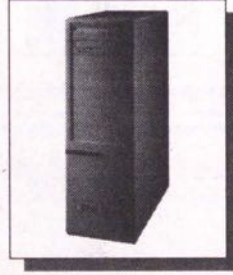
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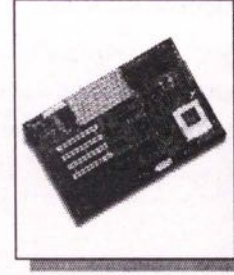
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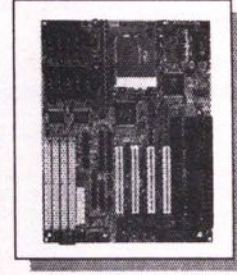
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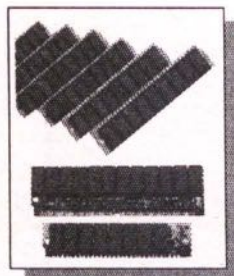
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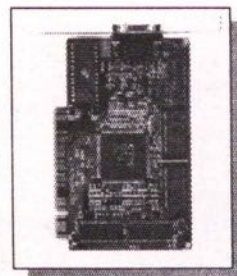
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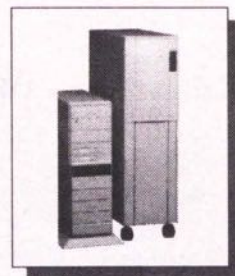
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including approximately \$1.5 billion in film financings, \$14 billion in bank financings and the first 100-year bond issue sold by a corporation in more than 40 years.

Philip was also instrumental in structuring the acquisition financing for Capital Cities/ABC, Miramax Pictures and The Mighty Ducks hockey franchise.

Prior to his work for Disney, Philip was an investment banker for both Morgan Stanley & Company, Inc. and Salomon Brothers Inc.

The Lycos search engine is located at <http://www.lycos.com>.

### Doctor Says Kids Addicted to Net

A British psychologist says some children are becoming addicted to the Internet, spending up to 14 hours a day online. He believes this might become as damaging as drug or alcohol abuse.

Reporting from London, the Reuter News Service quotes Dr. Mark Griffiths of Nottingham Trent University in the English Midlands as saying, "As the number of people who have access to the Internet grows, the number of people addicted to it will grow."

He says parents shouldn't be put off buying their children a computer, but they should try to make sure it's not used to excess.

Griffiths says children who spend up to 14 hours a day on the Net could sacrifice time with friends and fail to develop mature relationships.

### Foreign Chip Share in Japan Up

A U.S. trade group reports foreign chipmakers increased their share of the Japanese semiconductor market by 3.3 percentage points to a record 26.2 percent in the third quarter.

Reporting from San Jose, California, United Press International quotes officials with the Semiconductor Industry Association as saying the foreign share averaged 24 percent for the first three quarters of 1995, compared to an average of 21.9 percent during the first three quarters of 1994 and 19.4 percent for all of 1993.

UPI notes Japan is required to permit foreign producers to achieve at least a 20 percent share in its market.

### Company Recalls Memory Program

SoftRAM95, a Synchronys Softcorp program designed to mimic the benefits of having more memory chips, is being recalled in the wake of a federal government inquiry into claims the software doesn't work as promised.

The Associated Press says the software works as advertised for Windows 3.1, but is ineffective with the newer Windows 95 operating system.

"The company said in November it would put stickers on its packages warning customers that SoftRAM95 would work only for Windows 3.1," AP reports. "The company issued the recall because stickers didn't make it onto all the packages."

The wire service says SoftRAM95 has been one of the biggest-selling for PCs in the United States this fall, capitalizing on Windows 95's need for additional memory to run effectively.

Officials with the Culver City, California, firm told the wire service the New York office of the Federal Trade Commission has started an inquiry into SoftRAM and that the company is cooperating. Also, two lawsuits have been filed against the company over the problem.

Meanwhile, Synchronys officials say the firm is developing a version of the program that will work with Windows 95 and plans to ship the revised version to registered users and make a program that repairs the original's trouble available through online services.

### Online Super Bowl Site in Works

An Internet site available to football fans for the month leading up to the Super Bowl game is being created by NBC and the National Football League with the help of Microsoft Corp.

A Super Bowl preview show being created by NBC and the NFL will be shaped in part by suggestions made via the Internet site, according to the Associated Press.

Site visitors will be able to suggest topics to be included in the one-hour TV special on behind-the-scenes game preparations, which will be aired the night before the Super Bowl. AP says Microsoft will help create and manage the service.

Both NBC and the NFL are selling advertising packages that include slots on the online service. Ann Kirschner, an executive for NFL Enterprises, said the online ads were going for about \$100,000, and said at least seven slots were available.

### Taligent to Become IBM Subsidiary

Apple Computer Inc. and IBM Corp. have confirmed recent press reports that their Taligent venture will be folded into IBM. About 200 jobs will be lost in the process.

The Taligent Object Technology Development Center will continue the development of Taligent technologies and accelerate their integration into IBM products. IBM will assume responsibility for marketing and distribution of all future Taligent products.

Taligent was formed in 1992 by Apple and IBM to develop a new application system based on object-oriented technology. Hewlett-Packard Co. became the third investor in 1994.

"Taligent's pioneering technology is an important element in our object-oriented software strategy for enterprise-wide distributed computing," says Steve Mills, general manager of IBM's software solutions division. "Today's announcement will allow us to accelerate delivery to our customers. It reinforces our aggressive drive to provide software developers with powerful, cross-platform, object-oriented software that adheres to industry standards and meets enterprise needs."

### FBI to Probe IBM in Argentina

A judge in Buenos Aires says an FBI team soon will visit Argentina to determine if IBM's local unit, currently involved in a probe into an alleged bribery scheme, has broken U.S. laws.

Federal judge Adolfo Bagnasco, heading the probe into alleged bribery in a tender for a \$249 million project to upgrade computers at the state-owned Banco Nacion, told David Haskell of the Reuter News Service he expects the FBI team later this month or early in February.

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## Impression

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## Microsoft Names Web Publishing Tool

Microsoft Corp. says its new integrated publishing system for the World Wide Web, code-named "Blackbird," will be marketed as the Microsoft Internet Studio.

The product is designed to allow content providers to create, publish and manage interactive Web pages. It supports the HTML standard, allowing Web browsers on any platform to view Internet Studio sites.

According to Microsoft, the software works with existing content creation tools and is fully extensible via OLE controls and a software development kit. Without any programming or HTML coding, content providers using Internet Studio can create multimedia Web pages incorporating hypertext documents, graphics, real-time sound and animations.

Internet Studio Web site: <http://www.microsoft.com/istudio>.

## Apple in Bind With Microsoft

Apple Computer Inc. apparently is ending the year facing licensing difficulties for Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 operating system.

Computergram International writes that Apple finds itself in a bind because Microsoft's "onerous licensing terms ... seem to involve (Apple) signing away its birthright."

The newsletter notes Apple's Windows

and MS-DOS licenses expire on Dec. 31, and the company "has been unable to reach any compromise with Microsoft on the clause in the license agreement that would indemnify the latter against any possible infringement of Apple patents."

CI observes that even Microsoft foe IBM has somehow found a way to sign, "but Apple must now buy the software for its Windows compatibility boards from third parties and get less favorable terms."

## Political Slogan Becomes Virus

From Bucharest comes word that Romania's best-known political slogan — a call for President Ion Iliescu to resign — has been transformed into a local computer virus.

According to the Reuter News Service, "Jos Iliescu" (that is, "Down with Iliescu") flashed across screens whenever users of infected computers used the J-O-S keys together. Apart from the electronic insult the virus apparently is harmless, the wire service adds.

"Iliescu, who has twice won democratic elections, is an unpopular figure among liberals and students who accuse the former communist of hijacking the 1989 revolution which toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu," Reuters comments. "Fading 'Jos Iliescu' graffiti remains a common sight in Bucharest."

## China Calls for Net Porn Control

In the wake of Germany's crackdown on pornography in cyberspace, Chinese government officials called for improved management of the Internet to prevent people seeing pornographic material on the network.

The Reuter News Service reports from Beijing that a joint statement from the State Council (cabinet) and the office of the Communist Party's Central Committee said there were increasing links between domestic computer systems and the Internet.

Said the statement, "Good use of the Internet is of great importance to increase global information exchanges, promote economic construction and develop science," but because of weak management and lack of control over what enters the Internet, some pornographic and other harmful materials have come onto the system.

"We must take effective measures to deal with this," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Netherlands, an Internet provider has shut off a subscriber's access after the user allegedly scanned hundreds of pornographic pictures of children onto the Net.

Reuters says the Amsterdam-based Internet service Xs4all said the incident, which occurred around Christmas, marked the first time it had shut down a user for spreading child pornography on the network.

The wire service notes in the Netherlands, pornographic materials involving persons under 16 are illegal. Disseminating them carries a maximum penalty of four years in prison.

Amsterdam police spokesman Klaas Wilting said the law applies to the Internet and that law enforcers have intensified their monitoring of the Internet for violations in recent years as more people go online.

He said the latest violator was not arrested since he was disconnected before authorities could track him down, but an investigation is under way.



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**\$2,250<sup>00</sup>**

### Monitors

Daytek 14" NI. SVGA Color Monitor .28dot	\$310
Daytek 14" NI.LR. SVGA Color Monitor .28dot	\$325
Daytek 15" NI.LR. SVGA Color Monitor .28dot	\$460
MAG DX-15 15" NI.LR. Color Monitor .28dot	\$510
MAG DX-17 17" NI.LR. Color Monitor .26dot	\$930
Sony 15FS 15" NI.LR. Color Monitor .25dot	\$685
Sony 17SE 17" NI.LR. Color Monitor .25dot	\$1530
NEC 15XV 15" NI.LR. Color Monitor .28dot	\$670
NEC 15XE 15" NI.LR. Color Monitor .28dot	\$810
NEC 17XE 17" NI.LR. Color Monitor .28dot	\$1460
NEC 17XV 17" NI.LR. Color Monitor .28dot	\$1160
Acer 15" Color Monitor .28dot	\$438
Acer 15" Digital Color Monitor .28dot	\$495

### Printers

HP 5L Laser Printer 600dpi	\$699
HP 5P Laser Printer 600dpi	\$1260
HP 4 Plus Laser Printer 600dpi 12ppm	\$2060
HP 4M-Plus Laser Printer 600dpi 12ppm	\$2710
Canon BJ-30 Portable Bubble Jet	\$315
Canon BJC-70 Portable Color Bubble Jet	\$479
Canon BJC-4000 Color Bubble Jet	\$395
Canon BJC-210 Color Bubble Jet (New)	\$399
Canon LBP-430W Laser Printer 300dpi	\$569
Canon LBP-460 Laser Printer 600dpi	\$489

### Modems

Hayes 14,400bps Fax & Modem Internal	\$135
U.S. Robotics 14,400bps Fax & Modem Internal	\$110
U.S. Robotics 28,800bps Fax & Modem Int. & Ext.	\$249/278
U.S. Robotics 28,800bps Fax & Modem Int.w.Voice	\$299
Cardinal 14,400bps Fax & Modem w.Voice Int.	\$138
Cardinal 28,800bps Fax & Modem w.Voice Int.	\$259
Cardinal 28,800bps Fax & Modem Ext.	\$220

### Multimedia

Sound Blaster 16 Sound Card	\$118.00
SONY 77E IDE 4x CD-ROM Internal	\$185.00
Panasonic 4x IDE CD-ROM Internal	\$185.00
Mitsumi 4x IDE CD-ROM Internal	\$189.00
Toshiba SCSI 4x IDE CD-ROM Internal	\$399.00
NEC 6x SCSI CD-ROM Internal	\$599.00

### Video Cards

Trident 9440 PCI video card w/ 1MB exp. to 2MB	\$99.00
Trident 8900D Video card w/ 1 MB ISA Bus	\$88.00
ET4000 PCI Video Card W/1MB exp. to 2MB	\$99.00
Diamond Stealth 64 1MB/2MB PCI	\$175/235
Diamond Stealth 64 2MB/4MB VRAM VLB/PCI	\$399/599
ATI Mach64 2/4MB VRAM VLB/PCI	\$355/595

### Drives

Western Digital, 850 MB EIDE Hard Drive	\$288
Western Digital, 1.2GB EIDE Hard Drive	\$395
Western Digital, 1.6GB EIDE Hard Drive	\$545
NEC 730MB SCSI-2 Hard Drive	\$260
NEC 1.08GB SCSI-2 Hard Drive	\$368
NEC 2.1GB SCSI-2 Hard Drive	\$930
Conner Tape Stor 800MB	\$280
Conner Tape Stor TMS4000 IDE/SCSI	\$595
1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive	\$49

Prices are subject to change without notice. VISA service charge is 2.8%.

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## Kahn Steps Down as Borland CEO

Borland International Inc. announced that founder Philippe Kahn stepped down as president and CEO, but will remain with the software publisher as chairman. Gary Wetsel, 49, executive vice president of operations and chief financial officer, was named president and appointed to Borland's board of directors.

## Bad Pentiums Cost Intel \$450 Million

A \$450 million charge was taken by Intel Corp. to account for the costs of replacing its flawed Pentium microprocessor.

## Computer Finds Shakespeare Poem

A computer program has confirmed that a 383-year-old poem unearthed in a library appears to be the work of William Shakespeare.

Scholar Donald Foster found the 578-line poem — "A Funerall Elegy In Memory of the Late Vertuous Maister William Peeter," about the death of a young actor in 1612 — in the Oxford University library in 1981.

From Chicago, the Associated Press reports Foster ran the poem through a program called SHAXICON, which he wrote to weed out poetry not really written by Shakespeare.

The software compares word usage and style with that of Shakespeare and 50 other Elizabethan writers. He said the new elegy fit Shakespeare's usage in all 17 tests made by the SHAXICON program. No other author came close in more than five areas.

Still, Foster acknowledges that, even if it is accepted as one of Shakespeare's works, the poem will never be counted as one of his masterpieces.

Said the scholar, "It's not a poem that will ever be widely loved, but it will change how we read his other texts. It is, in a way, a retirement poem, talking of theatricality as a fraud. He also talks of 'a sadder case of knowing shame,' possibly scandal of a sexual nature."

He said Thomas Thorpe, publisher of Shakespeare's Sonnets, entered the 1612 elegy in London Stationers Register, a copyright depository, along with the initials "W.S." Shakespeare's last plays were written at about the same time; he died in 1616.

The poem reads in part:

"But whether doth the stream of my mischance

"Drive me beyond myself, fast friend, soon lost,

"Long may thy worthiness thy name advance

"Amongst the virtuous and deserving most, who herein hast

"Forever happy proved;

"In life thou livest, in death, thou diedst beloved."

## '96 Internet 'Hangover' Foreseen

The International Data Corp. is predicting a shift in corporate leadership online in the new year. It foresees activity on the Internet and World Wide Web lurching from an "intoxication" to a "hangover" stage in 1996.

The Framingham, Massachusetts, technology consultant also predicts many corporations that invested in online services now will suffer "discouraging" losses in 1996 and decide to pull out of the Internet.

Nonetheless, IDC gave online services a bullish 10-year outlook.

Writing for United Press International, Andrea McDaniels reports, "IDC said two of the leading online service providers — CompuServe, America Online, Microsoft Network and Prodigy — are expected to founder in 1996, leaving only two network giants providing access to the Web."

IDC Vice President Frank Gens told the wire service, "The seeds will be sown for the creation of new leadership and the downfall

of some current giants." He did not predict specifically which would fall.

Citing network "traffic jams" encountered by Net wanderers, Gens added, "If they sign on during rush hour on the information superhighway, they could wait five to 10 minutes for one screen to appear. Most will be underwhelmed by the content on the Web once they get there and cancel their online subscriptions."

Other IDC predictions reported by UPI:

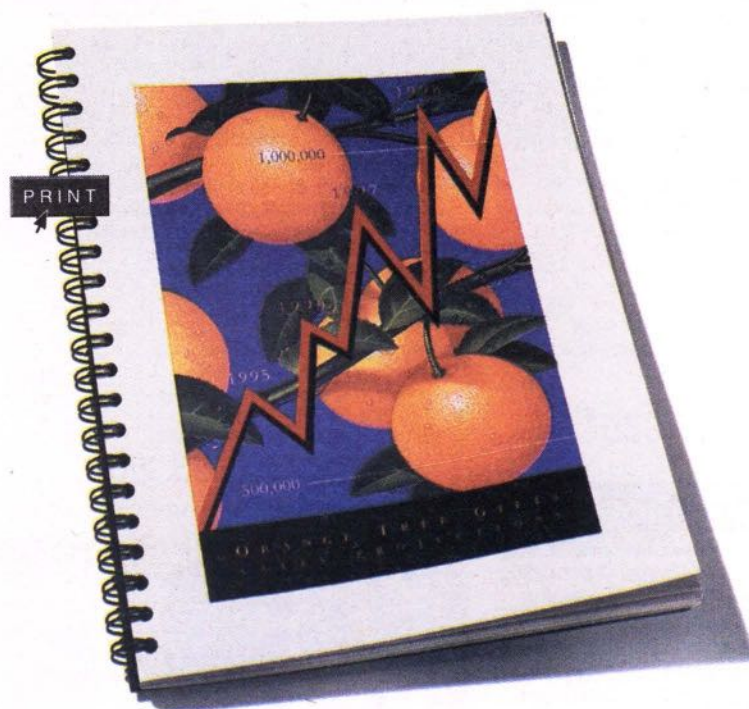
- ♦ Networks will develop new technologies to cope with the exponential growth of subscribers, whose numbers were expected to soar in the next five years from 8 million to 10 million to more than 200 million, reaching 1 billion by 2010.

- ♦ Providers will streamline services through data compression, adding high-speed telephone lines and hooking up larger computers.



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# Welcome to Computers96

## MPEG full motion video

More and more multimedia applications incorporate full motion video. To make the grade in '96, systems need MPEG capability and a PCI video card with at least 1 meg of VRAM. IPC CD/FX and MX•1 systems include both.

## Quad Speed CD ROM

Once an expensive option, a Quad speed CD ROM drive is now essential. Most software is accessible easiest by CD. Every CD/FX and MX•1 multimedia system has quad speed CD.

## 14.4 Voice.Fax.Data modem

Don't even think about buying a PC without a modem card. The internet is rapidly making PCs the communication tool of choice. IPC multimedia systems even include a speaker phone to make them easy to use.

## Amplified Speakers

Once upon a time computers just went "beep". Now they blast out high quality stereo sound that requires a 16-bit sound card and decent speakers. Just like the ones included with CD/FX and MX•1 systems.

## 8 megs of RAM

This was once a lot of memory. In 1996 it is the bare minimum. Every IPC CD/FX and MX•1 system ships with at least 8 megs and can be upgraded to 128 megs if required!

## PCI local bus

VESA, EISA, and MCA were all contenders. In 1996 the PCI local bus is the clear winner of the bus wars. (Even Apple uses one.) IPC was one of the first brands in Canada to standardize on PCI.

## Intel's Pentium processor

Although other chip makers produce quality processors, only Intel keeps setting the standards. Make sure the "brains" of your PC are secure with a Pentium® processor. CD/FX and MX•1 systems are only available with Intel Pentium processors.

## Toll Free Tech Support

Even though PCs are vastly simpler to use, they still have their quirks. Access to the manufacturers' technical department is a real bonus. You can call us toll-free!

## Windows95

Sure there was a lot of hype last year, but Microsoft's latest operating software will be the top choice in '96 and beyond. IPC systems are specifically designed to take advantage of Windows95.

## Quality Software

PCs don't do much without software. The most cost effective time to buy software is when it's bundled with a system. The IPC CD/FX 575 includes seven popular Microsoft titles and the IPC MX•575 includes

## The Price

Unless you have some pretty intense requirements, paying more than \$2000 for a PC usually means you're spending a lot just for a name. IPC CD/FX and MX•1 systems start at an incredible \$1699.

## See The IPC OpenNote in person at:

Abbotsford	.....Pacific Office N Things	.....604.864.0865
Burnaby	.....Dexton Enterprises	.....604.433.9866
Burns Lake	.....New Generation Computer	.....604.692.3834
Campbell River	.....Odyssey Computer Services	.....604.287.3311
Coquitlam	.....Moody Computers	.....604.941.9105
Delta / Surrey	.....Strider Computers	.....604.543.4200
Kamloops	.....Specialty Electronics	.....604.851.9949
Nelson	.....Nicolson Computer Supply	.....604.354.4666
North Vancouver	.....Imaginative Computer Systems	.....604.984.7400
Penticton	.....Ashnola Computer Services	.....604.492.7672
Port Alberni	.....Alltech Computer Systems	.....604.723.1127
Port Hardy	.....Joyful Sound	.....604.949.7771
Qualicum Beach	.....Q.B. Microline	.....604.752.5147
Salt Spring Island	.....HNW Design Computers	.....604.537.1101
Sidney	.....Sidney Electronics	.....604.656.5771
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- Intel 75MHz Pentium processor
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- On-board PCI IDE controller with high speed serial & parallel ports
- 101 keyboard
- Windows 95 pre-loaded (manuals included)
- The seven titles above plus Grammatik
- Mouse & mouse pad
- 3 year parts & labour warranty
- First year on-site service\*

**\$1,699**

Only \$80 per month\*

## CD/FX 575

Everything you see (except the monitor) here plus:

- Intel 75MHz Pentium processor
- 530MB hard drive
- On-board PCI IDE controller with high speed serial & parallel ports
- 101 keyboard
- Windows 95 pre-loaded (manuals included)
- The seven Microsoft titles above
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♦ Some companies, retailers and publishers will bail out during the "hangover" period, "crippling their business's ability to compete in the virtual economy," says UPI, adding, "This will clear the way for leaders in the electronic marketplace to hike their investment in services."

♦ Slow development of a wide consumer base will lead 20 percent of the some 170 Fortune 500 companies with commercial Web sites to close or stop maintaining them, resulting in "ghost sites."

♦ Microsoft Corp. will have to put out its new online products, including its NBC-affiliated news service, under a different brand name tailored to Internet users if it wants to stay ahead. (Said Gens, "There's a limit to the power of the Microsoft brand.") He also thinks the growth of the Web will buck Microsoft from its top spot in the next 10 years. ("It's impossible for Microsoft to be as dominant as it has been in the past 10 years," he said.)

♦ Net access cost will drop in 1996 from \$25 to \$70 a month to as little as \$10 a month and Internet appliances will be given away free.

♦ Some "corporate visionaries" will seize the key home consumer market by developing a cheaper multimedia PC that breaks below the magical \$1,000 mark. Multimedia computers, which now cost about \$1,500, will be pitched for \$800 by 1997.

Said Gens, "The ones who figure out how to penetrate the home market will be the leaders five years from now."

### Intel Settles Patent Dispute

Intel Corp. and United Microelectronics Corp. of Taiwan have settled their legal dispute

regarding UMC's alleged infringement of Intel's microprocessor patents.

Under the terms of the agreement, UMC will halt the production and sale of its version of the '486 microprocessor, will pay Intel an undisclosed sum, and will withdraw all challenges to the validity of Intel patents that the company had filed in Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

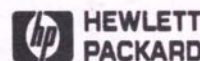
Intel says the deal won't give UMC any rights to technology covered by Intel patents.

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From Sony: the Sony 15sf 15" SVGA Monitor & Speaker System  
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**+ USR Sportster VI 28.8 Internal  
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\$290**

### Network Software & Kits

Microsoft Windows '95 Upgrade/Full Version	\$125/255
Microsoft Windows NT v3.51 Workstation	395
Microsoft Windows NT v3.51 Server	895
Netware v4.1 (5/10/25/50/100)	call
Ethernet Hardware Kit (2 cards, 2 terminators, 25' coax)	\$175
Lantastic AI v6.0 Starter Kit (complete setup for 2 node)	285
Lantastic AI v6.0 Add-On Kit (complete setup for 1 node)	155
GVC NE2000 16-bit Ethernet Adapter (BNC/10BT)	\$ 65
Intel EtherExpress Pro/10 Ethernet card (10BT)	135
3Com 3C509 Etherlink IIIb Ethernet Card (10BT/10B2)	175
GVC Unmanaged 8-port Hub	255
3Com Linkbuilder TP/8 Unmanaged 8-port Hub	295
3Com Linkbuilder TP/12 Unmanaged 12-port Hub	470
*call for custom length cable both coax (RG58) & twisted pair (RJ-45)	

### Accpac

Windowing system	285
General Ledger	795
Accounts Receivable	1045
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Lanpak users 5/10/20	1450/2425/3275
Order Entry	4 user 375
Inventory Control	615
Job Costing	615

### 2000

\$285	\$145
795	615
1045	615
1045	615
1450/2425/3275	4 user 375
	615
	615
	615

### Plus

### Diamond Multimedia

Diamond Edge 3D 2200XL Multimedia Accelerator	\$440.00
Photo Realistic 3D Graphics	
Wavetable Audio 16-bit Sound Card	
comes with 2 CD games: Virtua Fighter, Nascar Racing	
Diamond TeleCommander 3500XL Communicator	\$395.00
28.8 Fax/Modem	
Professional Voice-mail System	
Full-Duplex Speakerphone	
CD Quality Multimedia Sound	

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### Motherboard & RAM

Asus SP3 486DX4-100MHz PCI/VLB MB, 256k, IDE/IO	\$335
Asus SP4 Pentium-75MHz PCI MB, 256k cache, IDE/IO	525
Asus TP4XE Pentium-75MHz PCI MB, 256k cache, IDE/IO	545
Asus TP4XE Pentium-90MHz PCI MB, 256k cache, IDE/IO	670
Asus TP4XE Pentium-100MHz PCI MB, 256k, IDE/IO	745
Asus TP4XE Pentium-120MHz PCI MB, 256k, IDE/IO	840
Asus TP4XE Pentium-133MHz PCI MB, 256k, IDE/IO	1075
Asus TP4XE Pentium-150MHz PCI MB, 256k, IDE/IO	1225
Asus TP4XE Pentium-166MHz PCI MB, 256k, IDE/IO	1555
*256k Pipelined Burst Cache add \$40	
Intel 486DX4-100MHz CPU 3V	\$130
486 CPU Heatsink / Pentium Heatsink	1220
1MB/4MB SIMM-70ns (30pin)	49 / 169
4MB/8MB/16MB SIMM-60ns (72pin) w/o Parity	159 / 305 / 590
4MB/8MB/16MB SIMM (72pin) EDO Memory	175 / 330 / 695
*Please call on all Ram prices	

### Hard Drive, Controller

Western Digital 635MB EIDE HD, 10ms, 64k cache	\$255
Western Digital 850MB EIDE HD, 10ms, 64k cache	285
Western Digital 1.09GB EIDE HD, 10ms, 64k (mode 4)	325
Western Digital 1.2GB EIDE HD, 10ms, 64k (mode 4)	390
Western Digital 1.6GB EIDE HD, 10ms, 64k (mode 4)	470
HP SureStore 1.2GB SCSI-2 HD, 10ms	439
HP SureStore 2.2GB SCSI-2 HD, 10ms	1030
*call for pricing on other drives	
IDE 1:1 HD/FD Adapter w/2S, 1P, 1G	\$25
Enhanced IDE HD/FD VLB Adapter w/2S, 1P, 1G	35
Promise 2300+ VLB Enhanced IDE Card w/Bios	85
Adaptec AH-1542CF ISA SCSI-2 Controller Kit	\$375
Adaptec AH-2842 VLB SCSI-2 Controller Kit	365
Adaptec AH-2940 PCI SCSI-2 Controller Kit	375

### Tape, Case, Power

Colorado DJ-35 Tape Backup Drive (350MB Max.)	\$185
Colorado Travan T1000 Tape Backup Drive (800MB Max.)	265
Colorado DJ-50 Tape Backup Drive (1.4GB Max.)	330
Colorado Travan T1000E Parallel Backup (800MB Max.)	315
HP SureStore 2GB Internal 4MM DAT Drive	995
HP SureStore 24GB Internal 4MM DAT Drive	1155
HP SureStore 4/8GB Internal 4MM DAT Drive	1350
3M DC2120 tape cartridge 120MB capacity	\$ 20
3M DC2120XL Tapes, (350MB Max.)	25
3M MC3000XL Tapes, (1.4GB Max.)	45
3M DG90M 4MM DAT Tapes	20
Mini-size 13" tower or Desktop w/200W Jaba PS	\$95
Mid-size 19" tower case w/200W Jaba PS	115
Full-size 25" tower case w/250W Jaba PS	165
Full-size 27" tower case w/300W PS 2 fans, wheels	245

### Printer & Accessories

Canon BJ-30 Portable Mono Inkjet Printer	\$325
HP DeskJet 600c Colour Inkjet Printer	379
HP DeskJet 660c Colour Inkjet Printer, 600dpi, 4ppm(blk)	575
HP LaserJet 5L 1MB 4ppm, 600dpi	699
HP LaserJet 5P 2MB/5MP PS, 3MB, 6ppm, 600dpi	1275/1495
HP LaserJet 4+ 2MB/4M+ PS, 6MB, 12ppm, 600dpi	2125/2875
JetRam card with 1MB for IIP/II/III/IIIP	\$115
HP LaserJet 4/4+/4M+ toner cartridge	155
Raven RP-2405 Printer, 24pin, 192cps	\$235
Raven RP-2407 Printer, 24pin, 192cps, Colour Upgradable	295
Raven RP-2420 Printer, 24pin, 256cps, Colour Upgradable	390
Raven RP-2467 Wide CarriagePrinter, 24pin, 240cps	595
Raven Color kit for RP-9105/2406/2420 printer	75
Serial kit for Raven printer RP2406/2420	65
Printer Auto/Rotary Switchbox 2:1/4:1	30/50

### Monitor, Video Card

Daytek 14" SVGA Monitor, .28mm dp, NI	\$320
Daytek 15" SVGA Monitor, .28mm dp, NI, EStar	470
Daytek 17" SVGA Monitor, .28mm dp, NI, EStar	849
Daytek 21" SVGA Monitor, .28mm dp, NI, EStar	1855
ADI 4V 15" SVGA Monitor, .28mm dp, NI, EStar	535
ADI 5EP/17" 17" SVGA Monitor, .28mm dp, NI, EStar	925
Sony 15sf 15" SVGA Monitor, .25mm dp, NI, EStar	725
Sony 17sf 17" SVGA Monitor, .25mm dp, NI, EStar	1325
Sony 17se 17" SVGA Monitor, .25mm dp, NI, EStar	1650
Cirrus Logic 5434 PCI Accelerator w/1MB	\$125
ATI Mach32 Accelerator w/1MB (ISA/VLB/PCI)	145
ATI WinBoost Accelerator w/2MB Dram (VLB/PCI)	235
ATI WinTurbo Accelerator w/2MB/4MB Vram (VLB/PCI)	365/625
Diamond Stealth 64 Video w/2MB Dram (PCI)	265
Diamond Stealth 64 Video 3200 w/2MB Vram (PCI)	360
Diamond Stealth 64 Video 3400XL w/4MB Vram (PCI)	695
Diamond Digital Edge 3D Accelerator w/2MB (PCI)	440

### Modem, Mice, Scanner

USR Sportster 14.4 v.32bis Fax/Modem (Int/Ext)	\$139/159
USR Sportster 28.8 v.34 Fax/Modem (Int/Ext)	259/290
USR Sportster VI 28.8 v.34 Voice/Fax/Modem(Int/Ext)	290/320
USR Sportster 28.8 v.34 PCMCIA Fax/Modem	399
USR Courier 28.8 v. Everything External Fax/Modem	625
MS Compatible 3-button Serial Mouse	20
Logitech Mouseman (Serial/Bus)	75 / 95
Logitech Trackman Marble	125
Microsoft Mouse v2.0 (Serial/Bus)	85 / 115
Logitech Scanman 256 w/Omnipage OCR	155
Logitech Scanman Easytouch	245
Logitech Scanman Colour w/Omnipage OCR	295
HP ScanJet 4s Personal Grey-Scale Scanner	550
HP ScanJet 4c Full Page Colour Scanner	1395
Bar code laser scanner gun, auto trigger	550
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Magnetic card read/writer	1850
***USR Sportster VI Internal modems now available	

### CD-ROM & Others

Panasonic DoubleSpin CD-Rom w/interface	\$ 99
Toshiba 5302B QuadSpin IDE CD-Rom Drive	185
Toshiba XM-3701 6.7X SCSI-2 CD-Rom Drive	470
SoundBlaster 16 Vibra Sound Card (OEM)	115
Multimedia Stereo Speakers, 25 Watts	50
Multimedia Stereo Speakers, 45 Watts	70
Sony CSS-B100 Speaker Set	135
Teac 1.20MB 5.25" Floppy Drive	\$ 70
Teac 1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive / with frame	60/65
Fujitsu KB-8725 Keyboard, 104 Win '95	38
Fujitsu KB-4720 Keyboard, 101 Key (Heavy Duty)	59
MS "Natural" Keyboard, 104 Key Ergonomic	125
Focus 2001/2 Keyboard, 101 Key Enhanced	55
APC Personal SurgeArrest Strip w/Tel	45
APC Professional SurgeArrest Strip w/Tel	65
APC Back-UPS 280/400/450/600VA	145/215/250/350
APC Back-UPS Pro 280/420/650VA Win'95 Ready	199/329/419

### Computer Systems

486DX4-100MHz PCI/VLB Computer System	\$1399
Pentium-75MHz PCI/ISA Computer System	1609
Pentium-90MHz PCI/ISA Computer System	1729
Pentium-100MHz PCI/ISA Computer System	1809
Pentium-120MHz PCI/ISA Computer System	1899
Pentium-133MHz PCI/ISA Computer System	2129
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Systems come with the following:	
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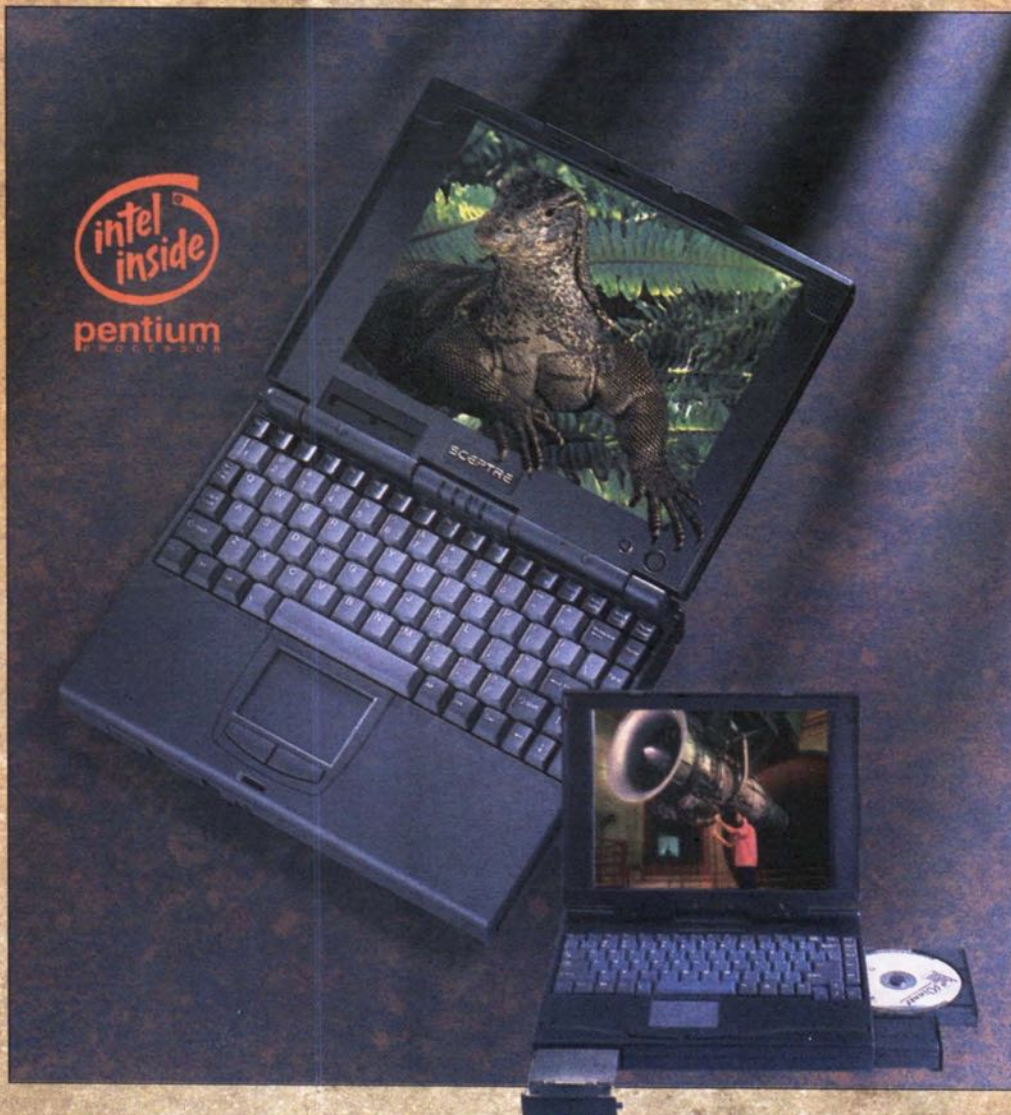
PC Digest also ranked the Soundx "Number 1 Overall" with a 4 star rating.

Sceptre is, again, back to the future with the latest notebook technology. The **NEW Soundx Series 3200 Pentium Notebook** is slim-line, lightweight, and modularized. An innovative "flat-pin" CPU design reduces heat, and a PCI Interface allows for faster access speeds.

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**NOW AVAILABLE!** — state-of-the-art Soundx Series 4000 Pentium Notebook with speeds up to 133MHz. With all the features of the 3200, the 4000 offers a user-removable quad speed **CD ROM**, and a larger 11.3" DSTN or TFT screen at resolutions up to 1024 x 768.

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### Faster Pentiums Roll Out

A new Pentium chip that is more than twice as fast as the original Pentium unveiled in 1993 is being formally introduced by Intel Corp.

Reporting from San Francisco, the Reuter News Service says that actually, though, Intel began shipping the new 150MHz and 166MHz versions in large volumes during the fourth quarter of 1995, adding that desktop PCs with the new chips will be available from retailers and direct marketers beginning as soon as today.

At Intel, Pentium marketing manager Frank Spindler said the chips will enable PCs to better manipulate images, multimedia and multitasking, and improve Internet communications capability.

Reuters writer Jeff Benkoe says the 150MHz chip will sell at a wholesale price of \$547 and the 166MHz chip at \$749. The last Pentium version, released in June, sold for \$900 at wholesale.

Benkoe quotes Intel officials as saying the firm expects retailers to sell the computer systems with the new chip at prices ranging from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

### Intel Errs on CPU Benchmarks

Intel Corp. says a bug in the beta compiler it used to generate benchmark results for several of its microprocessors caused it to overstate the chips' performance by about 10 percent.

According to Intel, the beta compiler skewed the SPECint92 performance results for 100MHz and faster Pentium microprocessors 100MHz beginning Sept. 1 and for Pentium Pro microprocessors beginning Nov. 1. SPECint92 is an older integer version of the industry's SPEC benchmark and is being phased out in favor of the more modern SPECint95.

The company says the beta compiler error does not affect performance results for SPECfp92, SPECint95 and SPECfp95, as well as various other Intel-reported benchmarks and Intel's iCOMP index. It adds that the issue is confined to the beta compiler software and affects neither microprocessor function nor the performance of any applications.

Pollack says an updated version of the software — Intel C Reference Compiler 2.2 — will be distributed to beta users and corrected SPECint92 results will be made available within 10 days on Intel's World Wide Web site (<http://www.intel.com>).

### 'Windows 96' Pirated on Net

Pirates have posted "Windows 96," Microsoft Corp.'s still-developing upgrade of its Windows 95 operating system, on the Internet, and the FBI has been called in to investigate.

### NEC Samples 64-Bit Processor

In Tokyo, officials with NEC Corp. said today they have begun shipping in Japan samples of a high-performance, 64-bit MIPS-based (million instructions per second) microprocessor.

According to the Reuter News Service, the 200-MHz VR5000 microprocessor is based on RISC (reduced instruction set computing)

architecture designed by U.S.-based MIPS Technologies Inc.

NEC says it will make 100,000 chips per month starting in March, adding that the new chip boosts performance by about 20 percent over its previous VR4400 chip.

The company told the wire service it sees typical uses of the chip in PCs, servers, networking devices, laser printers, and copiers, among others.

### Researcher: Software Soared in '95

The worldwide packaged software market experienced higher- than-expected growth in 1995, according to year-end research released by International Data Corp.

The market researcher, based in Framingham, Massachusetts, estimates that the overall software market grew by 15.7 percent in 1995, reaching \$92 billion. The

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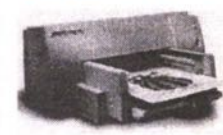
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market is expected to continue its growth in 1996, adds IDC, which is offering an initial forecast of \$105 billion by the end of the calendar year.

According to IDC, Computer Associates' purchase of Legent Corp., IBM's acquisition of Lotus Development Corp., and Platinum Software's numerous company/technology acquisitions continued the consolidation trend in the software industry. At the same time, Novell's intention to reverse its purchase of WordPerfect Corp. and Quattro Pro, and Microsoft's attempted purchase of Intuit demonstrated that not all mergers are simple, or profitable, business transactions.

With operating systems becoming commodities, IDC sees a trend for one vendor to dominate as the key provider of a "platform" for a given portion of the system infrastructure, while other vendors are relegated to supporting roles and conformity with the emerging standard. Some examples include Oracle emerging as the platform for database activities, and Microsoft's Windows family of products becoming a "de facto standard" for the desktop.

IDC notes that increased interest in the Internet's World Wide Web has led to a growing recognition that Netscape and comparable browsers represent the next wave of client/server software. New technologies, such as Java, will provide more robust functionality to the Internet and fuel the next revolution of client/server software.

#### Chip Market Up 40% in 1995

Researchers at Dataquest say the worldwide semiconductor market grew 40 percent last year, reaching \$154.7 billion, with all markets posting growth.

Reporting from San Jose, California, United Press International quotes Dataquest officials as saying:

• Intel Corp. was the leader with revenue of \$13.83 billion for an 8.9 percent market share.

- Followed by NEC at \$11.36 billion.
- Toshiba in third place with \$10.19 billion.
- Hitachi number 4 at \$9.42 billion.
- And Motorola in fifth with \$9.17 billion.

Dataquest says Korean electronics giant Samsung posted the biggest percent rise in sales, gaining 73 percent to \$8.34 billion to finish sixth. It was followed by Texas Instruments at \$8 billion, Fujitsu at \$5.5 billion, Mitsubishi at \$5.15 billion and Philips at \$4.04 billion.

The research says the Asia/Pacific region, excluding Japan, posted a major gain in market share because of booming demand for DRAM (dynamic random access memory) chips. Revenue rose to \$18.7 billion from \$9.8 billion, boosting market share to 12.1 percent from 8.9 percent.

In the North American markets, revenue rose to \$61.58 billion from \$46.11 billion, but market share fell to 39.8 percent from 41.7 percent. Japan's sales increased to \$61.13 billion from \$44.78 billion and market share declined to 39.5 percent from 40.5 percent.

Finally, the European market rose to \$13.33 billion from \$9.84 billion and saw market share edge down to 8.6 percent from 8.9 percent.

#### Kodak Launches Digital Camera

Eastman Kodak Co. has unveiled a sub-\$1,000 zoom-lens digital camera that allows users to store images on removable cards.

The Kodak Digital Science DC50 camera features a 3x motor-driven zoom lens; automatic focus and exposure controls; and "good," "better" and "best" resolution options. Users have the option of storing images on removable PCMCIA cards or in the camera's 1MB of internal memory.

#### Sun Sets Up Separate Java Unit

Sun Microsystems Inc. has spun off a separate unit to handle Java, the evolving programming language it developed for the Internet. To head the new division, Sun has chosen Alan Baratz, formerly president/CEO of Delphi Internet Services Corp.

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Sun President/Chairman/CEO Scott McNealy told United Press International, "We're privileged to have someone of Alan's stature and background leading this organization. His 15 years' experience in high-technology engineering and executive management is just what we need to grow this critical aspect of our business."

Before assuming the leadership of Delphi, Baratz held senior management positions with IBM in New York, culminating in being named IBM director of strategic development.

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The Trademark Checker sells for \$199. Additional information is available on MicroPatent's World Wide Web home page: <http://www.micropat.com>.

### Microsoft Lays Off 120 Workers

Microsoft Corp. yesterday laid off 120 workers at its Bothell, Washington, plant, where 3.5-inch diskettes are made.

Reporting from the firm's Redmond, Washington, headquarters, United Press International quotes a Microsoft spokesman as saying it is a sign that 3.5-inch disks are being replaced by CD-ROMs, and notes the company is adding 2,000 people to its total work force this year.

### Amquest Unveils Faster Modem

Amquest Corp. says it has developed an internal V.34 modem that delivers compressed data speeds of up to 230.4K bps — twice the maximum compressed speed of conventional 28.8K bps modems.

The company, based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, notes that its HyperModem is the first modem to offer enhanced throughput using Rockwell International's controller/data pump chipset.

According to Amquest, the \$199 HyperModem is capable of data throughputs of up to 230.4K bps when linked to a remote HyperModem and up to 115K bps with ordinary 28.8K bps modems.

The HyperModem supports V34/V.Fast Class 28.8K bps data transmission, plus slower standards such as 14.4K bps Group 3 send/receive fax. The modem is compatible with Windows 95, Windows 3.1 and most leading Windows and DOS communications packages.

The HyperModem, which is scheduled to become available later this month, will be bundled with data/fax software from Cheyenne Communications.

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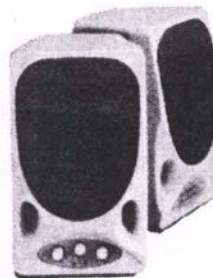
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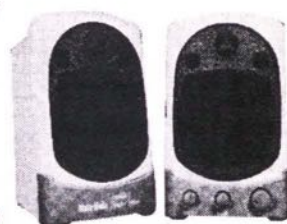
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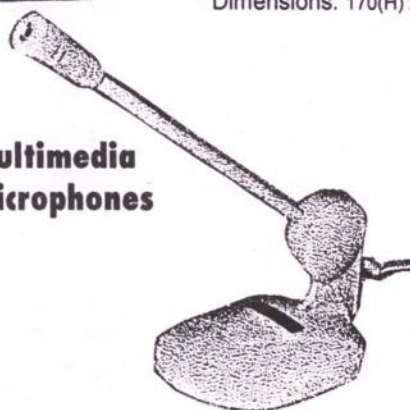
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# Java and HotJava: An Introduction

By Dan DeBellis

## Not your average cup of Joe

Java is exciting! It's impressive! It has the potential to significantly change the way we think about and approach networked computing. It's introduction

in conjunction with the Internet could very well mark the beginning of a new era in computing.

Yes, computing in general and the Internet in particular are wildly hyped; this industry thrives on it. No, this stuff

isn't going to create world peace, end all human suffering, cure baldness or even common dandruff, for that matter. Having said this, Java is not hype. There is a powerful reality behind this new programming language and environment.

Maybe you will be as impressed as I was.

The purpose of this article is to obtain a conceptual overview of Java. Those interested in a more in-depth understanding of Java and Java related subjects should visit Sun Microsystems' Java website at <http://java.sun.com>. The *Java Language: A White Paper* and *The HotJava Browser: A White Paper* are both available at this site.

## A little ancient history

The core technology of Java is an outgrowth of a consumer electronics R&D project started by Sun Microsystems in April, 1991. The goal was to develop advanced software for a variety of networked devices and embedded systems (devices which are attached to and communicating through a network). They needed a small, reliable, portable, distributed, real-time operating environment. Starting with the C++ language, they tried to extend the compiler, a critical part in making the portable and platform-independent environment they wanted. This approach soon proved too problematic. Realizing the problems they faced could best be address by developing an entirely new language, they began working on what they then called Oak, which would later be renamed Java.

Java was first used in developing a prototype PDA (personal digital assistant) like device, this went nowhere due to a nonexistent market, which Apple's Newton later demonstrated. They then applied their Java technology to the Set-top box and video-on-demand market, this also didn't pan out for a number of reasons.

By the spring of 1994 it was obvious the Internet and more specifically the World Wide Web was exploding in popularity with the release of the NSCA's Mosaic, the first web browser and graphical interface to the Web. They realized the potential of Java in combination with the Internet, the mother of all heterogeneous networks. Their new mission was to supercharge web browsers. They began porting Java to the PC, Mac and Sun platforms and developing a web browser in Java. The result was HotJava. The Java Environment and HotJava were formally announced by Sun at Sunworld '95 in May, 1995.

## Java

What is Java? It's a group of technologies: A programming language for developing applications, an architect-

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ture for running those applications and a set of tools to build and compile those same applications. Java incorporates a variety of features which include being *portable*, *architecture neutral*, *interpreted*, *dynamic*, *object-oriented*, *high-performance*, *multithreaded*, *secure* and *robust*. This allows Java to send architecturally neutral code that is *dynamically* loaded and run on any heterogeneous network. If you don't quite understand what all this gibberish means, read on, I'll try to explain.

It is important to keep in mind that Java's features are determined by the nature of the computing environment in which the software must be deployed. As it stands, this means supporting applications on multiple incompatible hardware architectures, multiple incompatible operating systems and one or more incompatible graphical user interfaces, all within a distributed client-server or heterogeneous network.

Java allows you to run the same application or program created with Java on any machine you choose as long as a Java *interpreter* and run-time system have been ported to that same machine. The run-time system and interpreter can exist inside a program, such as a WWW browser like HotJava, or as a stand alone on the machine.

To understand how Java achieves this *portability*, you must first understand how a program written in another language handles this process. First a program is created in lets say C++. The program in it's present form is called source code. For the program to become an executable, that is a program that can be use on your computer, it must be converted into machine or native code. A compiler handles this task. This all sounds simple enough, but the problems began here. Every platform has it's own compilers, and the program will only run on that platform if you use the correct compiler for that specific platform. Compilers also cause a number of other headaches for programmers, which I won't elaborate on here. With the number of different platforms out there you can see that compiling and compatibility issues would quickly add up. This also creates some real complications in a heterogeneous network where any kind of machine could be sitting at the other end of the connection.



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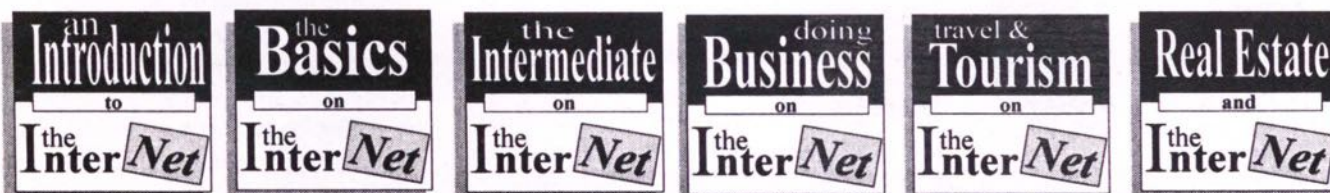
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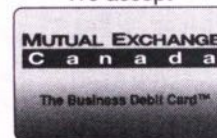
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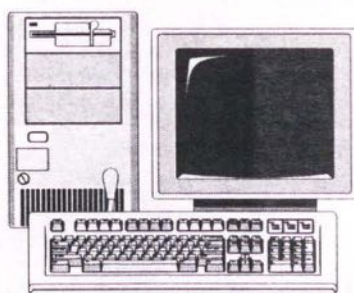
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Java gets around this problem by having their compiler compile the source code to a machine that doesn't exist-the Java Virtual Machine. The program now takes the form of an *architecture neutral* intermediate format called Java bytecodes. In this form the program can be sent over the network to any machine or played directly on any machine, as long as the Java interpreter and run-time system have been ported to that machine. In a sense the Java interpreter is tricking the Java bytecode into thinking it's running on the Java Virtual Machine. By this little trick, Java has reduced the number of applications to be ported to any platform to one; the interpreter. After this, any applications, programs or objects created in Java can run on any platform which has a Java interpreter and the run-time environment. Neat trick eh?...

The portability of the system also depends on the basic data types and arithmetic operators. Java specifies basic data type sizes and arithmetic operator behavior; unlike the C programming language where data takes up different sizes depending on the underlying hardware and OS. This has the effect of making the Java program hardware independent. There are a number of other smaller issues that help complete the portability of the system, but these two issues are at the heart of Java's portability.

Java is truly an *object-oriented* language; another critical feature for a language to thrive in a complex, network-based environment. Object-oriented is one of the most used and abused words in computing, let me define for you a very basic idea of what this paradigm means. In object-oriented computing the most fundamental unit is the object. The idea behind this is that we all live in a world of objects and are use to dealing with them in our everyday lives. Let's use as an example a hammer. A hammer has certain properties and it can be controlled in certain ways. When you use a hammer you don't worry about having to define it and tell the wood and metal atoms what to do, you just pick it up and use it, its an object. In this same sense, you created and define an object in computing and after that you can keep on using it. In Java the object is referred to as the class. The class is a reusable and *dynamically* loadable object which encapsulates functionality in a collection

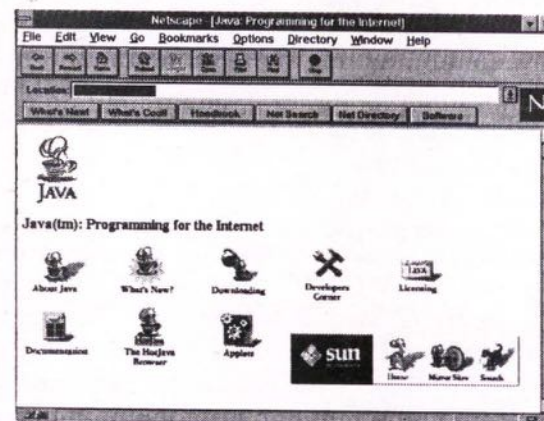
of variables and methods. The class can be used as a template to create other classes with additional functionality. Java also allows the dynamic loading of classes. This means that if additional functionality is needed while using an application new classes can be linked, on-the-fly, that encapsulate the methods needed creating a seamless interaction. As an example, you are cruising the WWW using a Java enabled browser you access a graphic file for which you don't have a helper application. Instead of not being able to retrieve the file, the

Java browser can ask the server for a class that can display the file, it would load this class and the file simultaneously and bang...up comes the graphic, seamlessly.

Java is a *robust* environment, a absolute necessity when you are automatically loading and running Java programs. Java does not use pointers it has true memory arrays. This eliminates the chance of overwriting memory (a real no-no) and corrupting data. Java also has automatic memory management in the form of a garbage collector running on a low priority thread in the background, this allows objects without references to be cleared from memory when the program is not busy using processor cycles. Java is also *secure*

which is closely related to robustness. The elimination of pointers makes it impossible to forge access to data structures, a common activity of viruses. Java checks the code for language compliance at both the compiler and interpreter levels, due to the possibility that code could have been altered between compile time and run time. The interpreter also continues its security checks by watching the classes loaded and making sure they only access the file system in the correct manner.

Java is also *high-performance*. In a language which features such robustness, security and portability you would expect some loss of performance, certainly interpreted code can't run as fast as native code, but Java does a good job of getting around these obstacles; reducing the amount of overhead where it can. With built in *multithreading* Java uses a low priority thread to do system maintenance and memory management when the processor is idle. The compiled Java bytecode is also surprisingly fast at interpreting down to machine code, since they are very similar.





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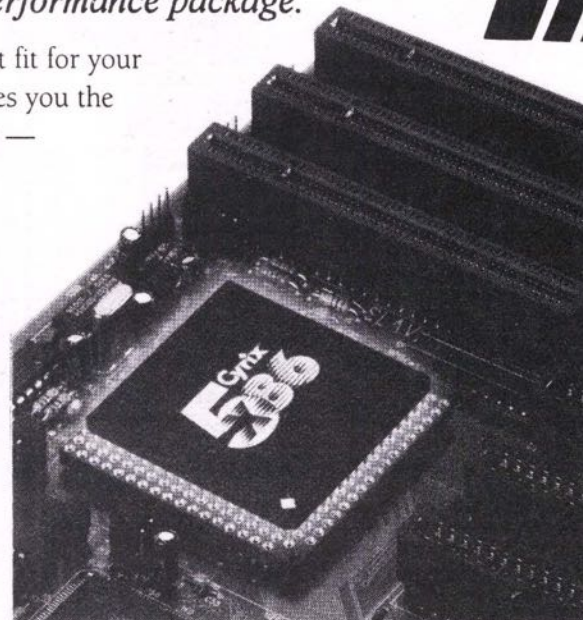
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## HotJava

HotJava is a dynamic second-generation Web browser. It is the first major end-user application created with the Java language and run-time environment and therefore incorporates all the functionality of Java. The most important feature being its ability to dynamically add to its capabilities. It should be noted that a number of companies have licensed Java for incorporation into their products. The newest beta versions of the most popular browsers, such as Netscape Navigator 2.0, are now Java enabled.

Conventional Web browsers allow the downloading of static pages, which are limited to the data types that the browser recognizes. These must be hard wired into the browser or added as helper applications. This causes obvious problems when new protocols and data types are introduced...the browser keeps growing in size and versions. The interactivity is limited to point-and-click hypertexting, which allows you to navigate through the data in a fairly seamless fashion, but is not interactive in the truest sense.

HotJava can dynamically download Java programs or applets, from any-

where on the Internet, which are then run locally on your computer. This allows the browser to dynamically add to its capabilities in terms of content, data types and protocols. This also effectively moves the interactivity away from the Web server and onto the Web client.

In terms of content this means that anyone browsing the Web who comes across a page containing an applet could use and interact with that applet in real-time. Once again this is because the program or applet is sent automatically over the network and resides on your computer just like any other application you have on your computer. There is currently a growing population of applets on the Web that ranging from animation to spreadsheets.

HotJava is small compared to traditional browsers since all the protocol and data handlers are brought off the network when needed. For data types this means that when the browser comes across something that it doesn't recognize, it looks for the appropriate handler on the server, as long as it is there in Java code, the browser will upgrade itself on the fly and display the new data form. No need for all those helper applications. Protocol handlers get installed in a fashion similar to data handlers.

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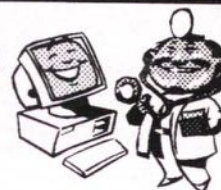
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HotJava is given an objects reference; an URL. If the handler for that protocol is already loaded, it is used. If not, Hot Java searches, the local system and then the system that is the target of the URL, for the protocol needed to interact with the object; it's then incorporated dynamically. This means you will not need multiple browsers to access data on different servers each with its own proprietary protocol. Also, vender's products will integrate more smoothly with each other, saving great pains for themselves and their users..

Security is of great importance when dealing with a large and heterogeneous network such as the Internet. When you are downloading, installing and running fragments of code imported from all over the place there are obvious dangers. HotJava incorporates all the security measures built into Java, which were described earlier. Could a computer virus get through Java's security measures? Only time will tell.

### In Summary

Is Java C++ done right? The jury is still out. Java is a very new technology, in its early stages of development. Considering Java was only introduced six

months ago, its off to a roaring start. It has already gaining widespread acceptance and support throughout the Internet community, and is aiming to become the universal standard for transfer of dynamic, executable content over the Web. An impressive list of companies have signed up to license Java, including Netscape and Microsoft.

A developers conference I recently attended in San Francisco was packed with Java enthusiast. Who knows what applications will be developed over the next year by these people. It could be used as the principle engine for interaction and behavior of objects in the next version of VRML. It could be used to provide all kinds of stand-alone applications which are retrieved over the network, used and returned. It could be used in any number of innovative ways because of its dynamically extensible and portable nature. Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines... let the innovations begin! □

**About the Author:** *Dan DeBellis* is a computer consultant and programmer, he can be reached at [ddebellei@direct.ca](mailto:ddebellei@direct.ca)

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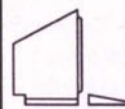
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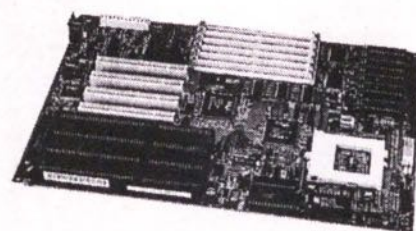
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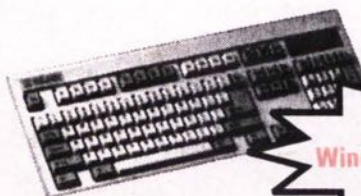
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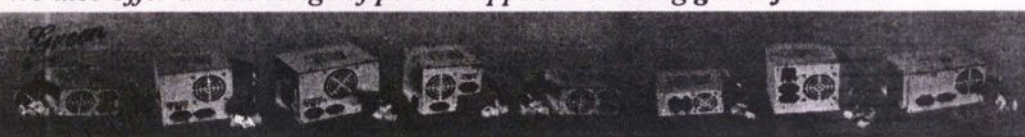
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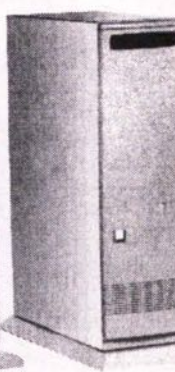
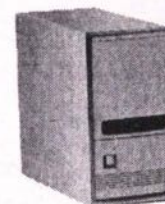
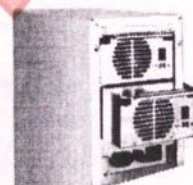
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# Digital Editing on your PC

By Diana Sng

Video equipment is becoming more and more computerized. Every day more desktop video products are announced, it's no wonder consumers are confused about which system to buy. Desktop video is like desktop publishing, only instead of print it is video.

The idea of editing video on the desktop with any kind of system basically means the ability to edit out what is not needed from raw video footage, linking the necessary video footage by means of special effects, titling and graphics and ending with a final "master" tape. The reasons why it makes sense to integrate video and computer

technologies are: high performance computers are becoming more affordable, computers offer a feature set that can't be produced anywhere else and there is no need to shuttle tape back and forth making access time almost instantaneous and have less wear and tear on expensive video equipment.

There are two forms of editing - tape based, "linear" and digital, "non-linear".

In linear editing, analog VCRs are used as players and recorders together with other video equipment like mixers, special effects generator, character generator and other specialized hardware. These set-ups have been traditionally expensive as they were stand-alone pieces

connected together by a myriad of cables. Hardware were tailored to work with other pieces that were often proprietary in nature and incompatibility with other systems resulted more often than not. Video data is stored on tape and played back by way

of the VCRs which means time spent in shuttling tape back and forth to find the precise location on the tape. This can be very tedious, time consuming and hard on the read/write heads of VCRs.

In non-linear editing, the editing operations are in your computer system and there is less chance for incompat-



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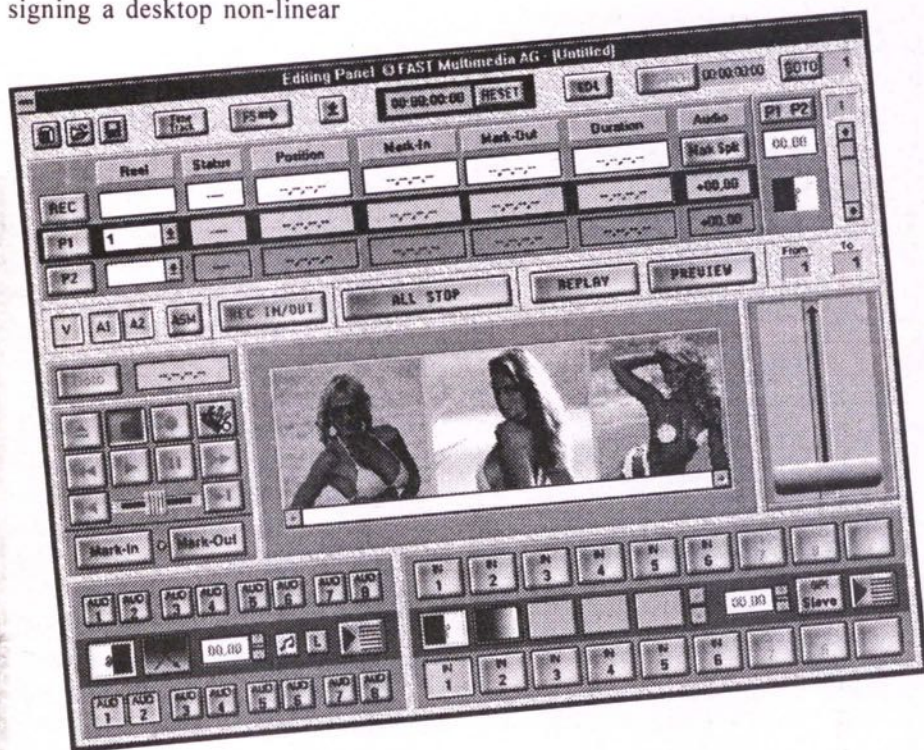
ibility. One main advantage is the easy exchange of data between programs for titling, graphics and still images. Access is also generally faster, in some cases almost instantaneous. Non-linear editing allows for video material to be digitized onto your hard drive eliminating wear and tear of your VCR and since it gives you immediate access to your video frame it is faster. Because it is digital, it is also more precise.

There are numerous manufacturers all launching into desktop video with hardware and software. How is one to decide on what editing system to use? In making a decision you will have to consider the following factors: Quality, Productivity and Cost. This will determine which desktop video system you will purchase. Generally there will be a trade-off. For example, if you require high quality then the cost factor will be quite high, if you have a low budget then productivity and quality may suffer. Since digital editing is now the main "domain" of the video editing industry let's concentrate on digital editing.

Image quality has been a problem faced by most manufacturers when designing a desktop non-linear

video system. The problem begins with the volume and transfer rate of video information. Under the NTSC standard, 18Mb of video information must be processed per second which is too much for the desktop computer to handle. Most professional desktop video systems use Motion-JPEG compression technology to compress this volume of information to allow the PC to process it, while maintaining a minimal loss in video quality. Compression occurs when parts of the image are deleted or repeating portions of the image are expressed in a short hand format. Generally speaking, when more portions of the image is deleted, more images or frames of the video can be processed through the computer but this results in an image of lower fidelity. As more of the image is retained, the higher the image fidelity but not as many images are processed. You go with the final image fidelity, frames processed per second ratio based on what you're willing to compromise - speed versus image fidelity.

Quality of the video depends on the tools you use to edit with, therefore the higher performance your computer sys-



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tem is (bus speed and width, processor, video, memory, hard drive capacity and access speed and software) the better you are in gaining quality and time. The age old saying, "time is money" probably means going non-linear could prove to be more cost effective. With all the various animation, 3-D special effects, rendering and character generator programs available, the capability to produce movies from the desktop is here.

The greatest advantage in going with a desktop video editing system is improved productivity for the video editor. This can be maximized to the fullest

when the editor is using existing digital resources (computer system, editing software packages and not be encumbered with stand-alone analog video equipment such as mixers and character generators.) In using a computer system to edit, the editor has frame accurate access to every sequence of his video footage thus allowing him to edit faster and be more creative. In the past, to edit a video sequence with titling, graphics and special effects, the editor had to do this in several steps with other equipment and required skilled operational knowledge of many different



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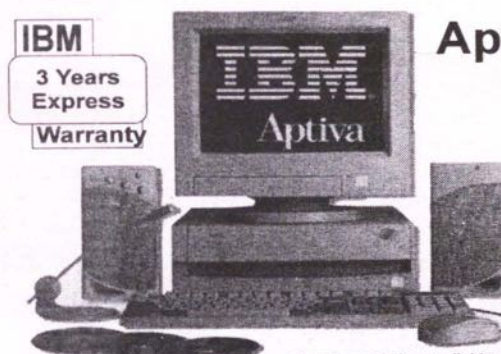
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pieces of hardware or else he needed other operators. In either case, more time is required to edit the motion picture.

Cost, in desktop systems, would be associated with purchasing a computer setup (hardware & software), service and training. These costs are normally offset by savings in daily operation. Also, one should take into consideration seminars on movie editing. Cost wise,

they are generally more expensive than computer oriented training. Most experienced editors edit projects on professional desktop systems in virtually half the time required on an analog system, this way they can finish twice as many projects as they normally would. There are various types of desktop editing systems from low end (prosumer - non-linear) to high end (professional - linear &

non-linear) systems now readily available. Prosumer systems may range approximately from \$1000 and up while the Professional systems will range from \$5000 and up. Generally, the prosumer models are bundled with third party software like Adobe Premier, Animator Pro etc...whereas the professional systems are manufactured by one vendor.

Linear versus non-linear? Linear is

editing with tape sources whereas non-linear is the technique of compressing and decompressing video and being able to edit directly from your hard drive. For the computer user, going non-linear would be advisable. Video users who tend to prefer the linear aspect of video editing, being skeptical of computer technology, must realize the video industry is advancing towards digital video - therefore video users will have to advance along with this technology otherwise they will be left far behind.

Manufacturers of non-linear editing systems are varied. Avid, FAST, Matrox, Toaster, to name a few, are some that have non-linear broadcast systems on the market today. These manufacturers are in the "professional" category. Some of the prosumer type systems are FAST with the Movie Line Products, Miro with the DC-1 and the newly arrived DC-20 and Creative Labs with their VideoBlaster.

The power of desktop computers for video editing is the ability of the computer to store images. The computer system is able to store, in video terms, a single frame, enabling desktop video editors to store, retrieve and manipulate hundreds of frames, therefore full motion, nearly lossless or full image fidelity, video can also be compressed (digitized) and stored.

Where do you start looking for a desktop editing system? One, would be to check out your local newsstand for video magazines, like Videomaker, Desktop Video, AV Video etc... Then check out the manufacturers who will have a listing of their distributor/dealers, contact these dealers for a demonstration, catalogue, pricing and some may even have a Web site. You can also talk to people who are using desktop video systems and get their opinions. The basic computer I would suggest to start with would be a full blown multimedia computer station with top of the line audio and video boards. Then look for a consumer hardware/software combo editing package that fits your needs. I suggest starting with a prosumer type editing system till one becomes more familiar with desktop video and then upgrade.

Video editing courses can be found in education facilities like Langara, Vancouver Film School and even the Vancouver School Board. Once you have the basics, it will not be difficult to be a master of non-linear video editing. □

About the author: *Diana Sng* is with *Commercial Electronics Ltd.* She can be reached at (604) 669-5525

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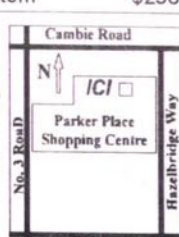
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# IBM, Sears Looking to Sell Prodigy?

After investing more than \$1 billion over the past decade, IBM and Sears, Roebuck & Co. reportedly are looking at whether to bail out of their joint ownership of the Prodigy online service.

Writing in The Wall Street Journal, reporters Bart Ziegler and Jared Sandberg, noting both IBM and Sears are commenting, quote industry executives as saying:

• Sears has retained investment bankers to explore selling its 50 percent stake in Prodigy, seeking as much as \$500 million, and is looking at whether to sell the stake in a public offering.

• IBM has hired an investment banking firm of its own to study what to do with its half ownership.

The paper says its sources say AT&T last month approached IBM about possibly buying Prodigy in its entirety with the cooperation of Sears, "but IBM is believed to be leaning against an AT&T deal, in part because it views the phone company as a competitor."

"Moreover," adds the Journal, "AT&T may be less interested now, having just decided to phase out its own commercial online service in favor of an Internet-based service."

The 12-year-old Prodigy "has only flirted with profitability," the Journal comments, "hampered by years of stodgy marketing, cartoonish graphics and, more recently, infighting between its parents."

The paper notes Sears for several months has had Goldman, Sachs & Co. trying to round up potential buyers, "but apparently sought too high a price. It also has been hindered by concern among potential buyers that IBM wanted to run the show."

(Under the terms of the Prodigy alliance, IBM can reject any potential purchaser of Sears's stake, and "IBM executives have said privately they want the upper hand in managing the company," the Journal says.)

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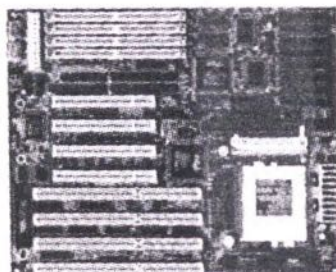


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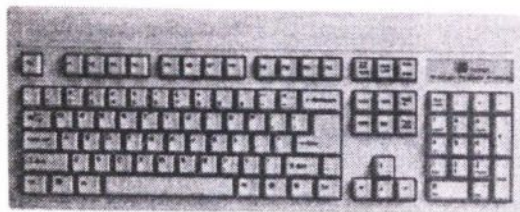


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## Database Developments

# Access for Win 95

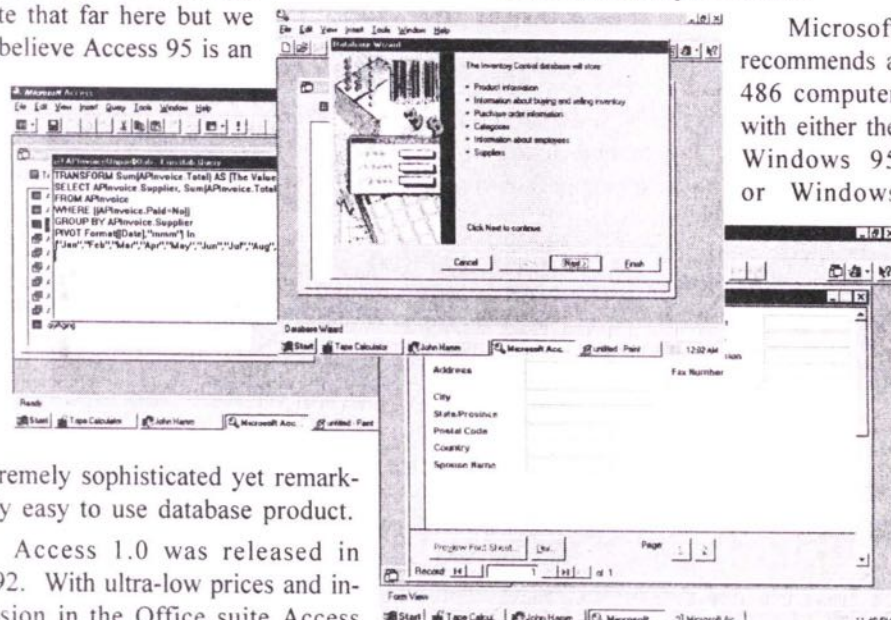
By John Hamm

When Microsoft released its best-selling Office 95 suite of business applications to coincide with the release of Windows 95, database users had to settle for the old 16 bit version of Access along with a coupon until the upgrade became available. Well, the wait is over and Access for Windows 95 is finally here just in time to be called the "Product of the Year" (1995 that is) by major computer publications. We won't go quite that far here but we do believe Access 95 is an

This latest version, numbered 7.0 to keep it in synch with the rest of the Office product line, continues Microsoft's strategy of making all aspects of database use and design easier for the new user and veteran alike. Wizards and online helpers guide the user through every aspect from design of the initial data tables to the production of reports and labels.

### Minimum Requirements

Microsoft recommends a 486 computer with either the Windows 95 or Windows



extremely sophisticated yet remarkably easy to use database product.

Access 1.0 was released in 1992. With ultra-low prices and inclusion in the Office suite Access soon gained major market share of the database market and as many as 5 million users. Price and marketing may have been the initial forces behind the rapid growth in acceptance of Access but it has been usability features that have made it so popular.

NT 3.51 operating system. You must have a minimum of 12 megs of ram memory and 14 to 42 megabytes of disk space. We found these requirements to be the very minimum. On a 486/66 with 16 megs of ram we found Access 95 to be acceptable but a little more sluggish

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than we would have liked. On a 100 MHz Pentium with 16 megs we found the performance to be excellent.

In Internet discussion groups the most common complaint about this new version of Access is the sensation that you are wading through molasses as you navigate the Access interface. This complaint, of course, is as old as Windows itself. It results from the fact that state-of-the-art software requires state-of-the-art hardware and if you are using older hardware you most definitely will be disappointed with Access 95.

Developers especially need to take this hardware requirement into consideration. Your application may hum along nicely on your personally tuned-up Pentium machine but installed on your client's 386/486 mix of machines it could well be an embarrassment.

#### Getting Started

Access 95 makes it easy to get started. Click on File/New and you will be presented with a tabbed dialog box which allows you to start building your database from scratch by clicking on the Blank Database icon. If you click the Databases Tab you can select from any of 22 pre-built database applications covering many of the most common database tasks.

These pre-built applications include an Address Book, Contact Manager, Book, Music or Video Collection, Event Management, Membership Maintenance, Inventory Control, Order Entry, Ledger, Wine List, Asset Tracking, Resource Scheduling, Recipes, Donations, Household Inventory, Picture Library, Time and Billing, Students and Classes, Wine List, Workout and Service Call Management.

When you make your selection Access Wizards start working away and in a few minutes, after answering a few questions, you will have a complete database application including properly normalized data tables, menus, reports and mailing labels.

These Wizard-built applications can be studied as learning tools and freely customized to suit your needs.

#### Using Access with Visual Basic

If you are a Visual Basic programmer you will find Access to be the ultimate VB utility.

The Access .mdb file format is the native data file format for Visual Basic databases. We keep Access open in one window and Visual Basic in another. While programming we often switch from our VB session to the Access session so we can inspect the results of our latest SQL query or experiment.

Access also has a wonderful query design grid that makes it almost trivial to create complex queries. While in query design mode you can select View/

SQL to open a text window of perfectly syntaxed SQL. This can be cut and pasted directly into your Visual Basic code, saved as a QueryDef or used as the Source of a Data Control.

The easiest way to learn SQL is to try to write it from memory, if it doesn't work switch to Access and build the query using the design grid and view the resultant SQL code to see where you went wrong.

Because of the massive overhead of Access we prefer to write our front ends using Visual Basic so that in a small application there may be just two files, an .exe file for the program and an .mdb for the data.

#### Who is Access 95 for?

Access for Windows 95 seems to be aimed at a pretty wide target: it is easy enough for the home user to build a

hobby database and powerful enough to manage the data needs of a small business. Access is optimized for the Windows 95 environment on a Pentium class machine. No programming is required to build Access databases and can be ignored completely by the uninterested.

Common wisdom has it that Access is not a good solution where there will be 25 or more simultaneous users, but  
(Continued on page 32)

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(Continued from page 31)

in less demanding environments Access is an excellent solution. The new Jet database engine which Access uses is much more robust than previous versions and appears to have better data integrity.

Access is a very good choice for people interested in database development but relatively new to the field. It shares the visual motif of modern Windows development tools and supports the Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications programming language. This language is a good introduction to computer programming in general and has the added advantage of being built into other Microsoft Office applications.

### The Competition

Windows database products are relatively new. They were the last of the major applications to be ported to the Windows environment and have only recently begun to fully utilize the event-driven model.

Three products appear to be emerging in the desktop database market. At one end there is Borland's Delphi and at the other end there is IBM's Lotus Approach with Microsoft's Access somewhere in the middle.

Borland Delphi is not strictly a database program but it is a fabulous Win-

dows development tool with very extensive database capabilities. It includes the Borland Database Engine which is the same engine underlying Paradox 7. Delphi allows you to create blindingly fast Windows applications and full-scale client/server applications but all this power comes at the price of a much steeper learning curve.

Lotus Approach on the other hand is generally considered to be the champion in the ease of use category. It is really one of those programs you don't have to open the manual to use. It lacks the flexibility of Access and, at least in the current version, offers little opportunity to dig deeper into the Secrets of the Database Masters. We have heard that the Windows 95 upgrade will contain a Visual Basic-like programming language for those who want to delve but we haven't seen this yet.

Access provides a combination of ease of use and a depth of power. It is a program you can grow with and if you like this sort of thing it will grow on you. □

**About the author:** John Hamm is a consultant and database application developer at Eastside DataGraphics, 1458 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 3X9 Tel: 255-9559, E-mail: John\_Hamm@MindLink.bc.ca

# ASAP does a lot with less

By Alan Zisman

**Product:** ASAP

**Publisher:** Software Publishing Company  
P.O. Box 54983  
Santa Clara, CA  
95056-0983 USA

Computers get more powerful—software adds more features—users get more confused—software adds more features to make it easier for users, requiring more powerful hardware, allowing software to add more...

Sound familiar? Are you really using all the advanced features of your word processor, spreadsheet, page layout or presentation software? Maybe yes—but if most of us are honest, we use the advanced features of these sophisticated products about as often as we drive at 180 km/h.

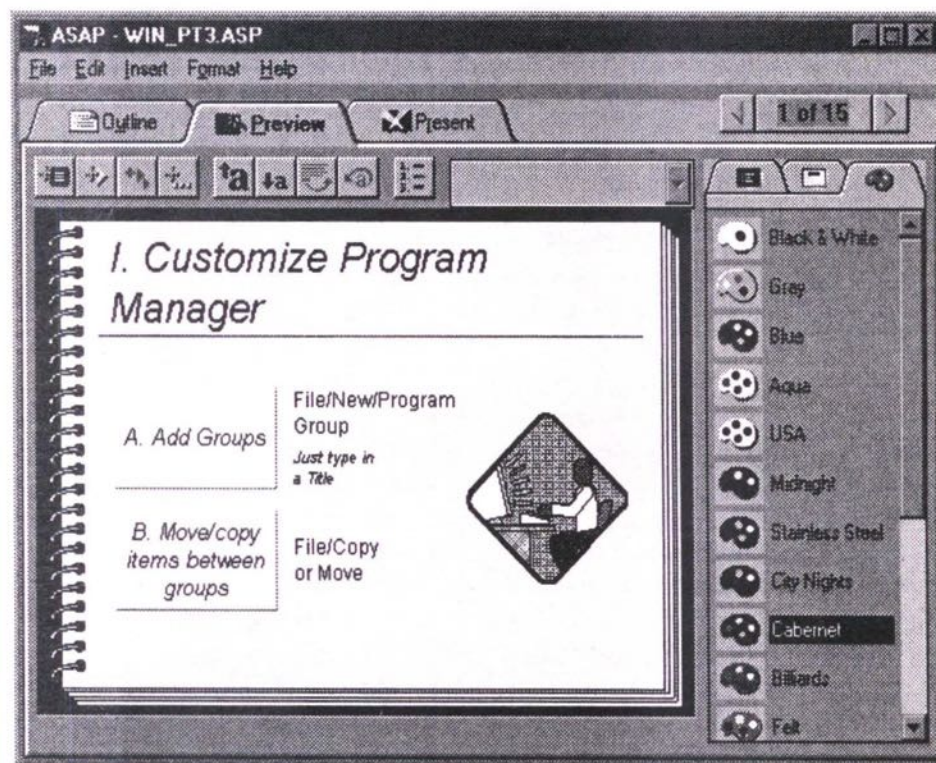
One such product that helps buck the trend is Software Publishing's ASAP. It's from a company whose Harvard Graphics defined the field of presentation graphics, beginning a decade ago. But trying to do any kind of graphics in the non-graphical DOS environment was inherently complicated. Newer products

for the Mac and Windows environments stole away much of the market... and took advantage of the relative ease of working in these graphical environments to add features and complexity.

Fancy dissolves between slides, integrated sound and video, complex backgrounds... all marks of a classy presentation require fancy hardware. The last couple of presentations I made using Lotus Freelance resulted in 4 MB data files—I can't simply copy those onto a floppy disk, put it into my pocket, and waltz in to give my speech.

But many, if not most presentations accompany speeches that are written or modified at the last possible moment—and the presentation graphics need to be created as soon as possible. Hence ASAP... no multimedia hooks, just an attractive presentation, that can be created in a few moments, from an outline from your word processor.

ASAP, in fact, adds itself as a toolbar button to Word... write an outline of your speech, click the button, and the outline becomes the text of your presentation. Select one of 17 colour schemes and your choice of 13 overall designs, then leaf through the slides, picking the most





effective of 22 formats for your individual slides. Slides can look like organizational charts, agendas, graphs, tables or more. Finally, if you want, add a logo or a few enhancements—you can be done in 15 minutes or so.

This minimalist program comes on a mere two floppy disks, with no manual—just a tiny Getting Started Guide, and a 20 page “Guide for Compelling Presentations”. The data file I created with it, following up on a pair of Lotus Freelance behemoths weighed in at a svelte 160kb. Requiring a humble 3.5 megs of drive space and 1 MB of RAM, it will run happily on a older Windows 386 or under-powered laptop... and will be positively perky on any more modern, more powerful machine. It doesn't try to recreate the wheel—it makes use of the clipart manager and wordart that Microsoft ships with virtually all of their applications, or can use other standard clipart formats. (It does, however, come with yet another spell checker).

It doesn't do everything... in many cases, it doesn't try to do everything. However, I couldn't add a title slide, after the fact—I simply couldn't find a way to insert a page at the beginning. It's awkward to try to move pages

around—there's no thumbnail view, like in its more full-featured competitors. I miss being able to print handouts with 6 of my slides to a page, like I can in Freelance. But it does what it claims to do—and generally quite well.

No Wizards, no bundled clipart or fonts... just an effective program that you can probably be up and running with in half an hour or so. It lists for under a hundred, US dollars... and you can buy it locally for about CDN\$149.

Put it on your laptop, and use it for all those times you need a presentation right now. When you've got a month lead time, let the art department make you something fancier, using all those other sleeker power-software products. If you're still not convinced, Software Publishing is prepared to let you try a free trial version that does everything that the full product does—but only for a couple of weeks. You can download this 2 MB file from CompuServe (GO SPCONLINE), AOL (keyword SPC), or on the Internet (<http://www.spc.com>). □

**About the author:** *Alan Zisman* is a teacher and an associate editor of *Computer Player*, he can be reached by e-mail [alan\\_zisman@computer-player.com](mailto:alan_zisman@computer-player.com)

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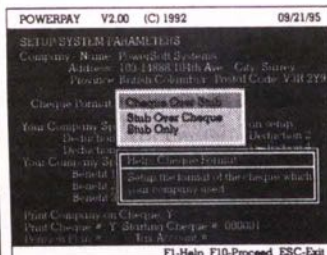
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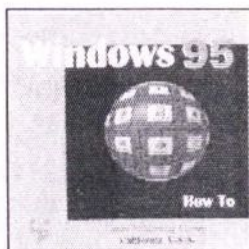
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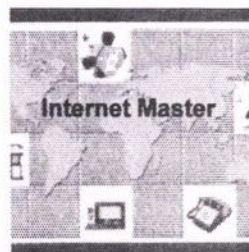
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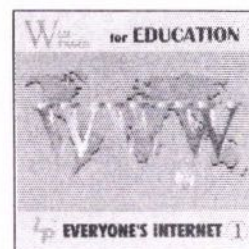
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## HP Selects Cable Modem OS

Hewlett-Packard Co. says it has selected Wind River Systems' VxWorks real-time operating system for use in its recently announced QuickBurst cable modem. The deal's terms weren't disclosed.

QuickBurst will offer users access to the same online services as a conventional telephone modem — only thousands of times faster — by connecting a PC to a standard coaxial cable TV line. The device will be sold to cable TV operators who will then offer it to their subscribers.

VxWorks will be the embedded operating system for controlling the HP QuickBurst's internal modem operations, including protocol, network management and other services. Wind River Systems, based in Alameda, California, specializes in software for developing real-time embedded applications.

"Wind River is well known in the embedded systems industry for its scalable operating system and excellent development- tool support," says William R. Hahn, operations manager for HP's interactive broadband products operation. "In the highly competitive multimedia area, where fast time-to-market is critical to success, their leading-edge technology and engineering savvy will enable us to meet our stringent design, cost and availability requirements."

## Amiga OS Headed to TV Land

The Amiga operating system will live again, but not inside a desktop computer.

Viscorp., an interactive TV developer headquartered in Chicago, and Escom AG, a computer manufacturer headquartered in Bersheim, Germany, have finalized a licensing agreement to add the Amiga operating system to Viscorp's new set-top TV appliance — Electronic Device (ED).

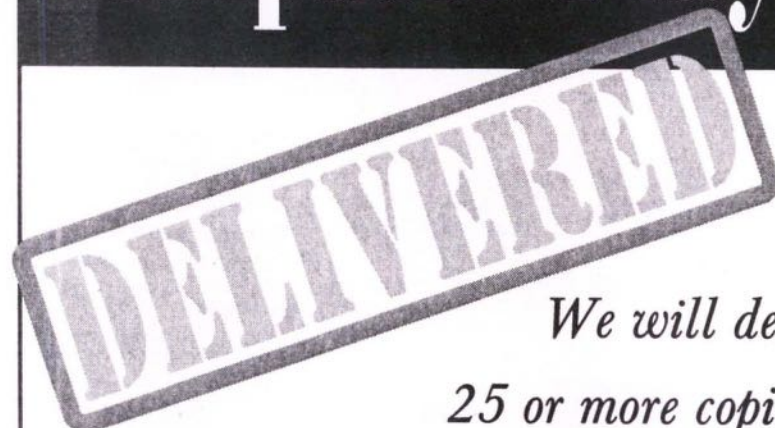
The deal's terms weren't disclosed. In 1995, Escom AG acquired all Commodore and Amiga licenses, patents and trademarks.

Viscorp says that adding the Amiga operating system to ED will allow users to access any online service, local bulletin board service and any address on the Internet at speeds thousands of times faster than a conventional telephone modem. Access will be allowed through a TV remote control, a computer keyboard,

a touch-sensitive pen or the microphone that's into ED.

"By utilizing our unique set-top appliance and incorporating the Amiga technology, Viscorp is able to provide ... the ability to access the Internet through a standard TV set with pricing that makes sense for the average TV viewer," says Jerome Greenberg, Viscorp's chairman.

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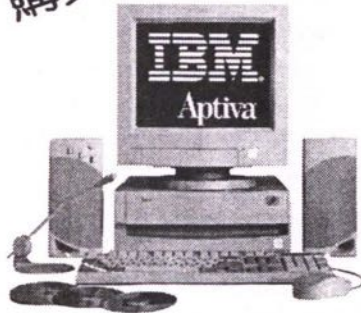
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## Desktop Publishing Tips:

### Corel Photo-Paint 5.0

By Swee-Sim Tan

We're going to use CorelDRAW and Photo-Paint to create a transparent drop shadow effect.

First, open CorelDRAW. Create a line art image in black and white, for example, a line of text.

Save this image, then convert it to a TIFF bitmap format using File, Export. For Colors, select 256 Shades of Gray. Choose a drive and directory and name the file. Leave the original image in the CorelDRAW window. Don't close CorelDRAW.

Open Photo-Paint, and load the image using File, Open. Select the drive, directory and filename. Click OK. (You may be able to load the .cdr file without converting it. If so, after choosing the file name and clicking OK, you will see the Import Into Bitmap dialog box. Select 256 shades of Gray in the Colors option.)

Display the Fill roll-up. Click the Uniform colour button and select a middle gray colour. Select the Fill tool

and click in the black areas of the image so they are changed to gray. This image will become the drop shadow.

Click Effects, Fancy, Gaussian Blur. Choose a Radius value—try 15. Click Preview to check the effect and change the radius if you wish. When ready, click OK.

Click Image, Convert To, Black and White, Screen Halftone. Save this again as a TIFF file. The image must be a monochrome bitmap so that CorelDRAW will treat it as transparent (gray-scale does not work).

Activate the CorelDRAW window and load this file into the original CorelDRAW file using File, Import. Size and arrange the original image with the TIFF image behind as a shadow. Click Arrange, Order to move the objects Forward or Back.

Colour the original object. Colour the TIFF image by selecting an outline colour (click the right mouse button on a colour in the colour palette). Its fill should be set

to No Fill (click the left mouse button on the X in the colour palette).

Create a coloured or textured background behind both images. The background will show under the shadow. □

About the author: Swee-Sim Tan is a freelance graphic artist and desktop publisher who provides training and consultation in CorelDRAW, Corel PHOTO-PAINT, Corel VENTURA, Harvard Graphics, PageMaker, and WordPerfect. If you are using CorelDRAW, Corel PHOTO-PAINT, CorelTRACE, or Corel VENTURA, call for information about purchasing How-To booklets and a collection of desktop publishing tips. Telephone: (604) 254-5940.

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## Fujitsu Tests Employees' English

Saying it is gearing up for the Internet age, Japanese computer giant Fujitsu Ltd. is set to test 30,000 of its 50,000 employees on their English ability, and not even Fujitsu President Tadashi Sekizawa will escape the testing.

Also, thousands are to be sent for courses to improve their knowledge of what the Agence France-Presse International News Service says "is increasingly becoming the global language."

A Fujitsu official told the Nihon Keizai business daily, "In the future, proficiency in English will be added to our rating standards."

The French wire service says Sekizawa and some 30,000 of his employees will start taking the Test of English for International Communication exams in mid-February. The firm also will send 3,500 selected employees for a course in English, which most Japanese find difficult to crack despite its status as the first foreign language for students.

"Japanese struggle because the pronunciation and syntax is completely different from their own language," AFP comments. "L and R are particularly difficult letters and students complain they have a constant struggle telling the difference."

However, Sekizawa said the widespread use of the Internet means the company now could easily gather information abroad and conduct negotiations with business partners "if we have good knowledge of English."

AFP says the number of Net users in Japan rapidly has reached 3 million, but difficulty in mastering English has been cited as one of the reasons for the limited Internet input from Japanese users.

## Does Java Violate Prodigy Patents?

Sun Microsystems Inc. may have to pay millions in licensing fees if its much-heralded Java Internet programming tool is found to infringe upon a Prodigy Services Co. patent, reports Interactive Daily.

If Prodigy's claim holds, it may "mean that anyone who attempts to make, use or sell Java runs afoul of (Prodigy's) patent," Robert Kost, a former counsel at Prodigy and the current vice president of U.S. Interactive, told the trade publication.

The news also could substantially boost Prodigy's asking price, two former Prodigy officials told Interactive Daily. Rumors are ripe that IBM and Sears are considering selling the online service.

Representatives for Prodigy and Sun Microsystems declined to comment.

## Compaq Ends Protest Against Intel

Ending a protest that flared in 1994, Compaq Computer Corp. has decided to rejoin Intel Corp.'s "Intel Inside" marketing campaign, part of a broad patent cross-licensing deal reached last week by the companies. Financial terms were not disclosed.

The companies' patent agreement allows them to freely share technology advances.

AP notes that while Compaq is the largest customer of Intel's microprocessors, the firm dropped out of the "Intel Inside" promotion in 1994 and Compaq CEO Eckhard Pfeiffer publicly criticized the promotion for causing customers to think that any PC with an Intel chip is like another.

## Net Interests Drive Market

A computer magazine reports its latest reader survey suggests a driving force behind the sales of computers, peripherals, and software is an interest in accessing the Internet.

CMP's NetGuide, which focuses on online activities, also says it has learned more than half of its subscribers — 98 percent of whom are expert, advanced, or intermediate computer users — say they will spend nearly \$8,000 on computer equipment and software this year.

"The people who are using the net, the savviest users, are not only driving the online revolution, they're also emerging as the driving force behind the entire PC industry," says NetGuide publisher Beth Haggerty in a statement from Manhasset, New York.

The research, conducted by Simmons Research, found 54 percent of NetGuide's subscribers plan to buy a new computer in 1996, spending an average of \$3,260 on a new PC, \$3,513 on peripherals (such as CD-ROM drives, speakers, monitors, printers, modems, and storage devices) and another \$1,109 on software.

The poll also found the magazine's average subscriber:

- ♦ Has been using computers for an average of 9.6 years at home and 9.7 years at work.
- ♦ Owns an average of 2.6 computers at home.
- ♦ Spends, each week, on average 17.8 hours online, including 9.4 hours at home and another 8.4 hours at work.

Also, 10 percent of the readers have their own home pages on the Internet's World Wide Web and 50 percent work at companies that have a Web site running or in planning or development.



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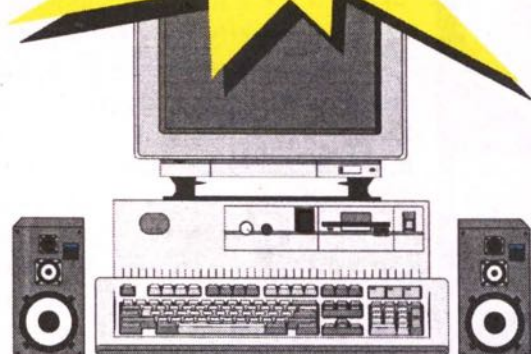
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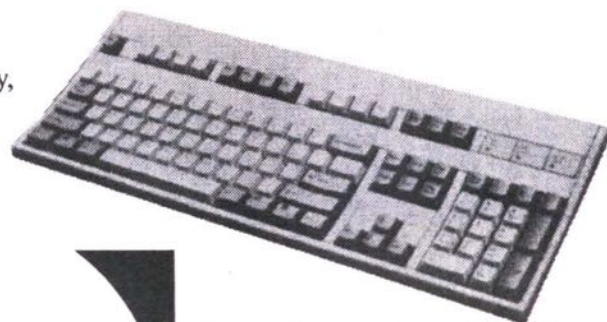
# Fujitsu keyboard for Windows 95

By David Anderson

The Fujitsu FKB8725 keyboard is another entry into the world of Windows 95-ready input devices now appearing in computer stores. This

is a well-made unit with the standard 101-key format, inverted-T cursor keys, function keys along the top edge, and trim, space-saving side pieces. The feel

of the keys is firm, springy, and quiet, with no click or "tactile enhancement". The keyboard sits on



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four rubber pads, and there are fold-out elevators where you would expect to find them.

There are three Windows 95 keys added to the standard compliment of keys on a qwerty-type AT keyboard. There are two Start Menu keys on either end of the space bar, in between the Control and the Alt keys. These keys give instant access to the Start menu at any time, and make mouseless exits from Windows very easy. To get to the Shut Down options, just press The Start Menu key, then the letter "U". The next three choices are Enter to quit, "R" to restart, or "M" to restart in DOS mode. The other Windows 95 key sits in between the right Start menu key and the right Control key. Normally, this key opens the Open-Explore-SendTo-Properties menu of any highlighted folder. It opens the Run menu for any highlighted executable file. At other times, this key opens the "What's this?" window. Most often, this key would be used to get to the Properties sheet for any given file or folder or drive.

In general, this keyboard does everything a keyboard needs to do in terms of a solid feel and quiet operation. The Windows 95-specific keys do indeed save time and effort, particularly with exiting Windows or switching to DOS. There is nothing trendy or "ergonomic" about this unit—it is straightforward and traditional. For the price, this is a sensible replacement for a tired, worn-out keyboard, especially if the operating system is Windows 95. □

**About the author:** David Anderson is Vancouver elementary teacher, parent of two children. He can be reached by e-mail: [computer\\_player@mindlink.bc.ca](mailto:computer_player@mindlink.bc.ca)

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By Alan Zisman

*Brother's ImageCenter and  
Willowbrook's E-Z Office:*

## Two affordable all-in-one solutions for home and small offices

**P**aper glut. If you're like most people working in an office-context, you're probably drowning in a sea of paper... paper you produce, paper you receive. Lots of it probably goes straight to the trash (or preferably, the recycle bin), but that still leaves lots that you need to keep, and file, and hope you'll be able to find when you need it.

The computer press, creators of many buzz-words, has been predicting that computers would result in a 'paperless office'... but instead, it seems that computerized offices, if anything, produce more paper documents than previously. Twenty years ago, pre-computer and pre-photocopiers, offices often circulated memos—a single copy that made its way around the office, with each reader initialing it.

Now, with photocopiers common, everyone gets a copy. Or with computer databases and mail merge, everyone can get a customized copy ("Alan Zisman—you may already have won 10 million dollars!").

Some big businesses have begun steps to take control of the deluge of paper. A few years ago, for example, VanCity Credit Union announced that they were going to be scanning all their back records, converting them to computer-accessible digital data. The technology to do this, however, was too expensive for most home or small office users.

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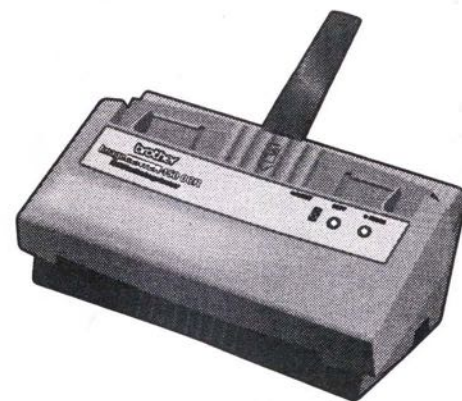
Japan's Brother started out at the turn of the century, as the first company in Japan to manufacture sewing machines. More recently, they've produced a well-regarded line of laser printers and multi-function machines. The ImageCenter products are equally capable and affordable page scanners, aimed at the home and small office markets.

Looking like a small fax machine, the 2 kg (4.4 LB) unit plugs into your computer's parallel port, allowing you to plug your printer into the back of the scanner. Up to 20 pages can be loaded into the paper tray, and can be scanned in either black and white mode or in 64 tone gray-scale for attractive photographic images, at resolutions up to 400x400 dpi (four times the resolution of a fax machine's 'fine' mode).

If it's plugged into an HP Laserjet, Deskjet, or Brother laser printer, it can send the image directly to the printer—even if the computer is not turned on. (Other model printers can be used for copying, by sending images via the computer). Alternatively, working along with the computer and a fax-modem (not included), pages can be faxed to a remote recipient.

The ImageCenter 150 model includes two additional applications: Cognitive Business Card Reader software allows users to scan business cards, reading the information into a handy database. In addition, Xerox TextBridge OCR is a solid example of an optical character recognition program—it allows users to read scans (or faxes received with the fax-modem), and convert them to text that can be saved or edited in most common word processors.

In text form, documents take up much less hard disk space than in



graphical format. As well, data stored in this way can be edited, altered, added to page layout software, and is more easily filed and found. (The lower priced ImageCenter 100 model (\$399 list) omits these applications, but is otherwise similar. The Model 150 ships with the 'standard' edition of TextBridge; users can upgrade to the Professional version for \$159. This version adds the ability to preserve the page layout of the scanned documents, along with being able to scan right into your word processor).

The ImageCenter software installs TWAIN drivers, letting the scanner be run right from the menus of any Windows program that supports the TWAIN standard—most graphics programs, as well as many page layout and word processors. As well, the ImageCenter Manager makes it easy for users to use the scanner for scanning, copying, fax, or OCR. ImageCenter Editor provides basic image editing capabilities. Unlike some competing products, however, Brother is not including any document management software—this software allows users to file scanned documents along with searchable keywords, or in some cases, even an index of the contents—making the scanner and OCR software a capable

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Despite this lack, with its small size and affordable price, the ImageCenter provides a welcome collection of features for many home offices and small businesses.

### Willowbrook E-Z Office

The E-Z Office, from Ontario's Willowbrook, is in some respects, a more ambitious product. It includes the E-Z Page Scanner (also available from Microtek), about half the size and weight of Brother's model. At 1.1 kgs (2.4 lbs) it could be a possible addition to a portable computer, however, it gives up some capabilities—it scans at a maximum of 300 dpi and 16 gray-scales. The lower resolution is not a big loss for scanned text, but appearance of scanned photos is clearly inferior to the Brother product. As well, only a single page can be fed through it at a time, making it more awkward to scan multi-page documents.

While also benefiting from easy set up to the PC's parallel port, and shipping with basic OCR software (in this case, Caere's OmniPage Limited Edition), the real strength of this product is the inclusion of PageSuite software. This allows users to annotate documents, for easy organization in PageSuite's Cabinet. This provides a virtual file cabinet, allowing users to store documents in folders, for easy organization and retrieval. A Quick Panel provides instant access to copying, faxing, E-mail, and scanning functions.

As well, however, the E-Z Office package includes a 28.8 kbs internal fax modem (using the standard Rockwell chipset) and software. This allows the full range of electronic data and fax capabilities, including voice capabilities. It can be set to answer phone calls, automatically recognizing voice, data, or fax calls. Along with the accompanying software, (Cheyenne Bitware ver 3.30 for Windows) it provides answering machine functions, including multiple mailboxes and speakerphone. Faxes and voice messages can be forwarded to another location when you are traveling. Windows 95 modem drivers are included.

Since many would-be customers already have fax-modems, it might seem like this would limit the potential market—Willowbrook, however, believes that most users have 14.4 or slower modems, and that the inclusion of a 28.8 high speed modem, along with microphone and voice capabilities will prove a real draw. Certainly, this combination of features will allow users to simply add



computer and printer to get a full-functioned small digital office.

While producing somewhat lower-quality scans than the Brother products, the PageSuite software and modem features could prove a valuable addition to many users. As well, while the included modem can only be used in a desktop computer, the scanner could easily be taken on the road. Combining the telephony hardware and software with the scan/copy/fax/file capabilities, this package meets a large number of small office needs in a single box.

Neither of these products will replace a higher quality flatbed scanner for anyone needing to often scan graphics—look elsewhere, perhaps at HP's new grey-scale ScanJet 4P or colour 4C models. But for home offices or small businesses looking to add basic scanning/fax/ocr, either is worth a look, with Brother providing more grey-scales, higher resolution, and multi-page support, and the E-Z Office providing better portability, document management software, and an included 28.8 modem with a wide range of functions. □

**About the author:** Alan Zisman is a teacher and an associates editor of Computer Player, he can be reached at e-mail at [alan\\_zisman@computer-player.com](mailto:alan_zisman@computer-player.com)

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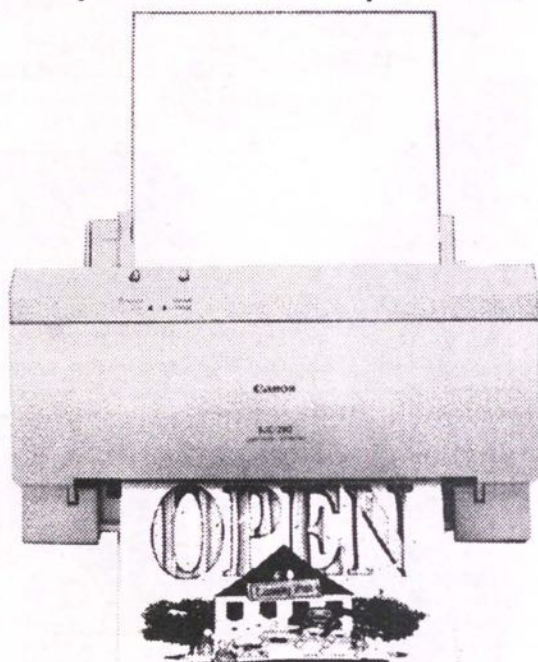
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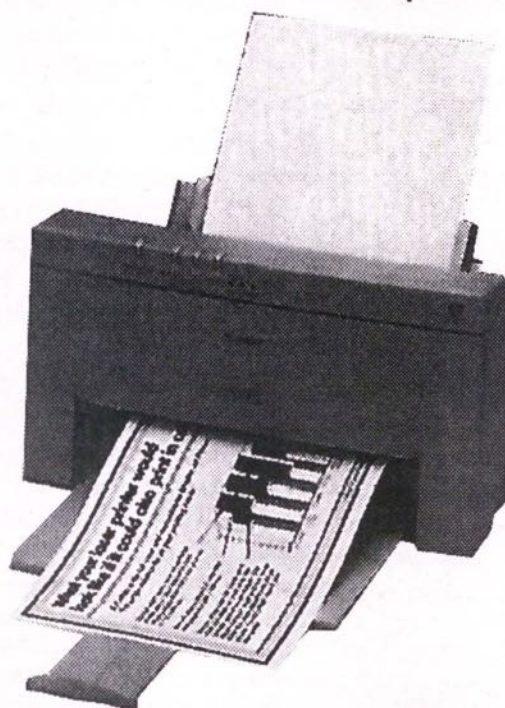
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## Yes, I will back-up my drive... tomorrow

By Rick McLaughlin

I'd like to start off the new year with a response to my last article. Although I received overwhelmingly good responses, there were a few people who felt that they had to voice their rude remarks.

If you want to give your views or respond to an article then write or e-mail the Editor. In the mean time, I'll carry on writing articles on companies that give lousy service, have bad products, rip off consumers and of course, try to help out the many people that need advice on products and service. I feel it's my responsibility to expose the fraudulent and to inform the public. I would like to thank those who sent me the 52 e-mail messages and the countless phone calls I received. It gives me a good feeling knowing that I have helped someone with a problem.

### Our 1996 resolution - Backing up my data

Well, the holidays are over and it's time to start considering some of those New Year's resolutions that we all make and rarely keep. There is one resolution that I would like all of you to really try to keep as a good Canadian. It is, in plain and simple terms. . . "Backing up your computer files."

Over the years, I have had to deal with many people who have lost their data due to a computer problem - most often a hard drive crash. Needless to say, this kind of situation is extremely nerve racking and in some cases, . very expensive. It doesn't have to be that way. With all the methods available to us today for backing up data, there is No excuse to lose all your data other than personal laziness.

### What is a Backup?

A backup is the storage of data (normally in a compressed format) that is taken from your hard drive(s) and stored on one of several types of media. All backup material has a restore capability. There are several different ways to do a backup. Lets go over them and try to find the one that's best suited to your needs.

These are tips you can use to maximize your backup resources. Do full backups only over the weekend (starting Friday evening) and incremental backups Monday-Thursday. (Try to do a full or new backup each week-this makes both backups and restores faster.

Consider the relative value of everyone's data. Some computers require nightly backups, while others require backups every other day. Establish groups with different priorities by scheduling a different backup server script for each group. Start backups as soon as possible in the evening. (Most people leave by 6 PM.) Use automated tape libraries (loaders/stackers/jukeboxes) to extend capacity backups.

Back up only documents and preferences. (However, I recommend backing up all files—it won't make the backup go faster, but it sure makes the restore go a lot faster.) Create and maintain a custom selector to ignore games, the trash folder, and other unwanted files. These types of files are not important data and if anything does happen to your hard drive, you can always reload the programs. Remember, these programs do not create useful data files. If possible, don't use encryption for either the backup media or link encryption for Remotes. Encryption requires extra processing and slows the backup. Use hardware compression (if available), since software compression slows down the backup. Not only are files copied faster, but also more data can fit on a tape.

Hardware solutions fall into three categories:

- 1.) Drives for network or server backup
- 2.) Drives for individual backup
- 3.) Multi-purpose drives for a variety of uses.

This section discusses the relative merits of all the options and compares their advantages and disadvantages.

**Floppy Disk Drives:** Because floppy disk drives come built-in with most com-

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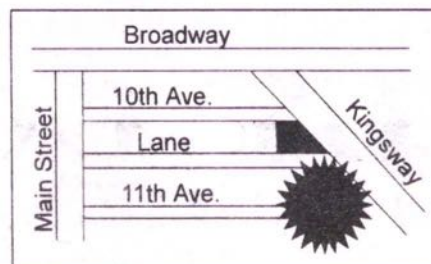
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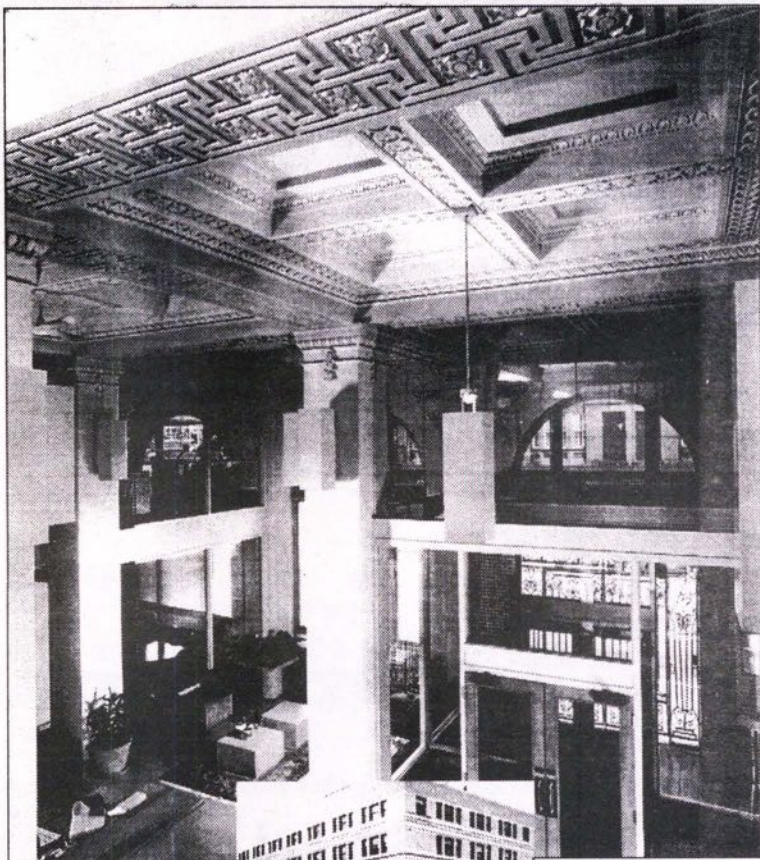
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puters sold, it is not surprising that floppy disks are popular for personal computer backups. Their performance and capacity make them impractical for backing up the typical personal computer's 160MB to 500MB hard disk. Even with highly optimized backup software backing up only your most critical 40MB of files, you have to spend three to four hours inserting and removing floppy disks. If you have more data than spare time, you should choose one of the other inexpensive storage options better suited for backup and archiving.

**Data Cassettes Drives:** Data cassettes derive from audio cassette technology and use the data equivalent of audio tapes. Primarily based on a TEAC mechanism, these drives use tapes ranging in capacity from 150MB to 600MB.

**DC2000 Drives:** The DC2000 was a common mechanism used in early tape drives with modest capacity and performance. Manufacturers have improved upon the original design, increasing available capacity up to 2GB or more, raising performance and lowering prices in the new generation of DC2000 drives.

**DAT Drives:** Rapid decreases in the price of digital audio tape drives have made them popular for individual backup, as well as for network and server backup. They are a particularly good choice for users with large hard disks.

**Removable Cartridge Drives:** Many individuals do their backups with removable cartridge drives (such as Zip, Jaz, SyQuest, and magneto-optical) which are not dedicated solely to backup. These drives are described next under "Multi-purpose Drives."

**Capacity:** In evaluating hardware—especially tape drives and particularly compression drives—the rated capacity should usually be viewed as the theoretical maximum. The capacities achieved in day to day use are often significantly less. The actual amount of data that will fit on a given medium will vary due to many factors. For instance, a tape's capacity can be greatly influenced by the relative speeds of the backup computer and the tape drive. Another factor is compression, a feature of some drives and software which reduces the size of the data being backed up. Theoretical maximum capacity representations refer to the amount of data before it gets compressed by a tape drive with hardware compression capability—and they often assume generous compression rates.

**Network or Server Backup Hardware:** Backing up servers or entire networks of computers requires hardware that can store extremely large quantities of data—hundreds of megabytes, even gigabytes—over a relatively short period of time—overnight or weekend. Fortunately, many different reliable, high-capacity,

high-performance backup devices are available.

**DAT Drives:** Four millimeter Digital Audio Tape drives have become very popular backup devices because of their low cost, quick speed, and low media cost relative to the high capacity. The drives use a helical scan method to store data on 4mm digital audio tapes, though special data grade tapes must be used. Tapes written to by a given DAT drive can usually be read by DAT drives from another manufacturer, provided they use the same format and compression features, which is a useful compatibility consideration. Many vendors offer several types of DAT drives varying in capacity from 1.3 to 4GB, while models with compression offer up to 8GB of storage. In recent years DAT drives have become an industry standard for backup devices by combining reliability, high capacity, and low cost.

**Exabyte 8mm Tape Drives:** Like DAT drives, Exabyte 8mm tape drives are helical scan devices that can store large amounts of data on a single tape. Rather than digital audio tapes, 8mm drives use the data version of the tape used in 8mm video equipment. These drives and media are also popular on workstations and mainframe computers.

**DC6000 Tape Drives:** Unlike the DAT and 8mm tape mechanisms borrowed from other industries, the DC6000 mechanism is a more traditional backup tape technology. DC6000 devices store data linearly on each tape. As a result, data is stored less densely than on DAT or 8mm drives. DC6000 devices range in capacity from 60MB to 5GB, with compression drives potentially doubling capacity up to 10GB.

**Digital Linear Tape:** (DLT) drives are among the fastest tape drives available. Their Quantum mechanisms offer exceptional performance and capacity when used under optimal conditions. DLT drive models are available in five capacities: 2.6GB, 6.0GB, 10.0GB, 15GB, and 20.0GB, with compression drives potentially doubling capacity up to 40GB. To achieve its high speed and large capacity, a DLT drive requires a high performance environment. The most important performance factor is the speed of the backup source through the data pipe. If the source is too slow, the DLT drive must frequently stop to reposition the tape while waiting for additional data. If the drive repositions too often, performance decreases dramatically.

**Autoloaders** (The big mans backup system): Several manufacturers now offer autoloaders, which use one or more drives (typically tape drives discussed above) integrated with a mechanical loader. The loader moves media between the drive and a magazine containing sev-



eral media, multiplying the available storage capacity several times over.

Like multiple-disc audio CD changers which automatically play one CD after another, extending your listening time, autoloaders extend the duration of unattended backup operation. When used with appropriate backup software, autoloaders allow multiple storage set backup strategies to be implemented in the absence of a person to change media.

**Individual Backup Hardware:** Whereas network and server backup often requires extremely high-capacity, high-performance backup hardware, individual backup places more importance on the cost of the hardware solution, hence the popularity of floppy disks.

**Multi-purpose Hardware:** The following drives are primarily used for archiving, data exchange, and long-term storage and are used only secondarily for backup. They usually are more expensive or require much more expensive media than dedicated backup devices such as tape drives. However, if you need one of these drives for other purposes, they can do double duty as part of a backup system.

**Removable Cartridge Drives:** Zip, Jaz, SyQuest, and Bernoulli drives use removable cartridges that approach hard disks in performance. Because they are random access devices, you can use them as either desktop-mountable volumes or as storage devices for backup and archiving.

**Hard Disks and Servers:** Using hard disks or hard disks installed as servers for backup is almost always the most expensive backup solution, albeit a potentially high-performance one. Keep in mind that most users whose backup demands outgrow floppy capabilities need a backup device with capacity equal to or greater than their hard disk size. Therefore, a hard disk used for backup

must be at least as large as the one used for normal use.

**Note:** Using hard disks as secondary storage devices usually makes sense only when special requirements to guard against hardware failures call for techniques like disk mirroring. With disk mirroring, instead of storing information on a single hard disk, you use a second hard disk to duplicate data. If one hard disk fails, computing can continue on the other one. Disk mirroring is not a replacement for backup because it only provides immediate protection against disk failures, not against accidental deletion, data corruption, virus, theft, or natural disaster.

**Magneto-Optical Drives:** Unlike disk drives which use a magnetic coating to store data, magneto-optical (MO) drives use light to store data on a removable optical disk. For most of these mechanisms, writing information onto the disk requires three passes over the disk, whereas reads require only one. This results in asymmetrical performance for applications like backup; backup is slow but retrieval of information (particularly of specific files) can be fast. Their high capacity (relative to other removable cartridge drives) and flexible nature make MO drives a good choice for users with multiple tasks.

**CD-R Drives:** Recordable compact disc drives use a laser to store and retrieve data on a removable, optical disc. Data stored on these discs cannot be erased, so these drives tend toward archiving use rather than backup. CD-R discs, like CD-ROM discs and audio compact discs, are durable and long-lived, making them ideally suited to archiving. CD-R drives require special software, as they are not directly supported by popular operating systems. Unlike MO and other removable cartridge drives, CD-R drives cannot be used like hard disks or floppy disks.

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I can't over-emphasize the need to backup your data. I've always thought of it as accidentally laying your hand on top of a red hot store element. Now the

odds of doing that are pretty darn thin, but if it ever does happen... baby, it's gonna hurt like heck!

Remember, it's not IF your hard drive fails... it's "WHEN".

Well that's a wrap for this month. Hope to see you all at our booth at COMDEX this year. Until then,

Happy Computing. ☐

**About the author:** Rick McLaughlin is a leading computer consultant from New Westminster and can be reached at (604) 521-6831 or e-mail at rick\_mclaughlin@mindlink.bc.ca.

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# Non-Residents Can Be Taxable In Canada

By Richard K. Acton

**T**his month I would like to deal with the issue of taxation of non-residents on Canadian source rental income and capital gains and also instances where people who have believed themselves not to be resident in Canada are considered resident for tax purposes.

## Rental Income and Capital Gains Earned by Non-Resident Landlords

Non-residents holding property in Canada are taxable on the income from that property. This may be determined in one of two ways. The first is by a withholding tax of 25% of the gross amount of rent without the deduction of any expenses. This is somewhat onerous as the actual tax may well be less if expenses are deducted.

There is an alternative method which allows for expenses. If a non-resident files an income tax return and reports his or her rental income, he or she may deduct the expenses such as mortgage interest, property taxes, repairs and maintenance, capital cost allowance, etc. to arrive at the net income. While a non-resident taxpayer will not be allowed to use any of the normal personal tax credits that a resident taxpayer can, the tax will be calculated on the net income in the normal manner. The tax is then calculated and remitted to Revenue Canada on filing, taking account of any tax withheld from payments to the non-residents.

This method is optional and can only be used if a T1 personal income tax return is filed within two years from the end of the year in which the rents were received. This filing does not change the requirement of the Canadian resident paying to the non-resident to withhold 25% of the rent and remitting it to Revenue Canada. The withholding may be avoided or reduced if a non-resident has an agent in Canada and the non-resident has filed an NR-6 indicating that he or she will file a T1 within six months of the end of the taxation year. The NR-6 must be filed on or before January 1st of the taxation year or before the first payment of non-resident tax is due. If there is an agent, then the agent may withhold based on the estimated net income as opposed to gross. However, a person acting as an agent should be cautious as he or she may be held liable for the amount not withheld if the tax return is not filed and the taxes not remitted.

When the non-resident disposes of the property, he or she will be subject to

capital gains tax on the property. If capital cost allowance has been claimed and the property is sold for an amount in excess of the unclaimed capital cost allowance (depreciated value), then the recapture will be taxed as income.

Revenue Canada has the concern that a non-resident may sell his property and receive the funds and never file a return or pay the tax. Consequently any person who purchases real property from a non-resident is required to withhold 33 1/3% of the purchase price and pay to Revenue Canada against the account of the non-resident vendor's tax liability. This may be avoided if the vendor has reported the sale to Revenue Canada and has either paid an amount equal to 33 1/3% of the estimated capital gain or has posted security for payment of the tax liability. If the sale is not reported in advance of the transaction, the non-resident vendor is required to report it within 10 days after the sale. This is done by way of a form T2062 which may be obtained from a Revenue Canada office. Although the T2062 is filed and a tax payment is made, the vendor must still file a Canadian income tax return after the end of the year to report his or her taxable income and the tax thereon. The vendor will then receive a refund or will be required to pay the balance owing by April 30th.

Some non-residents may be exempt under an International Tax Treaty. However, you should consult a Chartered Accountant to determine whether this applies to you and in any event, to determine the best way to plan the sale and legally minimize the taxes paid and the amount withheld.

## You May Be a Canadian Resident and Not Know It

Reviewing taxation of rental income for non-residents leads me to raise the issue of Canadian residency. The tax rules often result in individuals being resident for tax purposes although they do not reside in Canada. These individuals who believe they are not resident may be "residents in fact" or "deemed residents". There is a distinction between the two. In either case, an individual would be subject to Canadian tax on his or her worldwide income.

With respect to deemed residents I am not going to deal with individuals who are employed abroad in an official or quasi official capacity. Rather I draw your attention to the rules concerning sojourning in Canada. You are a so-

journer if you spend periods totalling 183 days or more in a year. As such, you are deemed to be a resident of Canada. If you are a deemed resident, then you must file a Canadian tax return on which you will report your worldwide income for the year. In the case of an immigrant who arrives 200 days before the year end, the immigrant would not be deemed resident for the entire year. Rather, the immigrant would be resident from the date of arrival to the end of the year. Sojourners are those who would not otherwise be resident in Canada except for the fact they have spent 183 days or more in the country, not necessarily on a continuous basis.

"Residence in fact" may trap individuals who assume they will not be resident because they were here for less than 183 days. Although there is no specific law defining a "resident in fact" there are some guidelines:

1. You are a Canadian resident if you reside primarily in Canada.
2. You may be a resident in fact if you live elsewhere for most of the year but you maintain ties here such as:
  - a) a family
  - b) a home
  - c) personal property such as a car, furniture, bank accounts
  - d) club memberships
  - e) other indicators that you are resident
3. If you are a resident who leaves for less than two years, Revenue Canada will assume that you are a resident unless you can prove that you did not intend to return to Canada at the time you left.

If you do not live in Canada but are a resident in fact, you are liable for tax on your worldwide income. You may receive a tax credit for taxes paid to a foreign country on business or employment income and some credit for other income. If you are a resident in fact, you must file a tax return for the province in which you resided at December 31st.

There may be many readers or families of readers who have as-

sumed they were not resident because most of their time was spent out of the country. However, if you have moved your family here and established ties that would indicate an intention to remain in Canada, then you may well be a resident in fact.

If you are concerned that you or a family member who you believed to be non-resident, may be either a deemed resident or a resident in fact, I strongly urge you to consult a Chartered Accountant to determine what your situation is and how to deal with it. Don't wait for a Revenue Canada auditor to knock at your door.

This column has not dealt with all of the issues dealing with rental income for non-residents or all of the issues dealing with "deemed residents" and "residents in fact". This can be a very complex area with many traps for the unwary. If you think these matters may affect you or a member of your family, I urge you to seek the advice of a Chartered Accountant as soon as possible. □

**About the author:** Richard K. Acton, F.C.A. is with Acton Gunderson Chartered Accountants. He can be reached at (604) 734-4871 or fax: (604) 734-9221.

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# The strange (but true) life of DTP in 1995

By Gordon Pritchard

It has been observed by several pundits that we don't see things as they are - we see things as we are. And so it is for our understanding of the evolution/transformation of the business of desktop publishing (DTP). Here are some observations - with a dash of vinegar - you may find of interest, from the viewpoint of one who began their career during the days when typesetting was done by casting molten lead in brass casts (1971!). Heaven forbid you should ask for text to be created in a size that was not available from a shop's existing casts.

## The brief (secret) history of DTP

The birth of desktop publishing was an accident that ended up changing not just publishing, but our world. Its history is about to repeat.

In 1984, Apple Computer, in trying to find a marketing edge that would allow them to sell computers against IBM, brought to market a computer system which capitalized on a key, revolution-

ary, concept that the Xerox Corporation didn't realize that they had discovered. Xerox, several years earlier, had developed a product called the Xerox Star publishing system, it was large (filled an average office) and expensive (\$125,000 in 1979 dollars). Essentially it simply integrated a computer, black and white video display, something called a mouse(!), and a laser printer to produce original documents. The system used an interface that made use of a windowing, office environment analogy called a 'desktop' which any Apple Mac computer user today would instantly recognize. The concept that Xerox didn't notice was that managers who depended on information needed to process and publish it themselves - preferably on their desktop. They needed to control the publishing of information. But because managers were not interested in learning arcane programming codes - that was the responsibility of MIS departments using huge mainframe (IBM) systems. Apple simply thought that a computer that was easy to use and that mimicked the familiar tools typically

found in an office should be well received and thus provide a kind of Trojan horse with which they could sell into corporate America. Apple's implementation of Xerox's concept coupled with the PostScript language introduced in 1985 resulted not only in a revolution in corporate publishing, but the entire graphic arts industry. It even (some feel) resulted in a political revolution. The breakup of the Soviet Union a few years later. Why? Because the infrastructure of the Soviet system only worked if access to and the publishing of information could be controlled by a single central authority - the government - somewhat like the MIS departments of the old corporate world. With a DTP system and a fax machine, any citizen could receive and publish information themselves. Now think, what government today exists on a foundation of strict, controlled, access and distribution of information? Hint: they serve over a billion too. And in 1995, you don't even need fax paper, fax machine, or even a laser printer to (possibly) achieve the same result that occurred in the Soviet Union.

A few milestone events of '95 - or - the future ain't what it used to be.

First a brief story. On New Year's Eve, December 31, 1999, many people around the world will celebrate the turn of the millennium - the change from the 20th to the 21st Century. Unfortunately their celebrations will occur one year too soon, since the event doesn't actually begin until January 1, 2001. On the other hand, you could say that the turn of millennium has already happened - because a clerical error made while revising our calendar during the Middle Ages effectively meant that Christ was born between four and seven B.C. (before Christ!). Strange, isn't it, how a seemingly simple event (like counting years, adding one after the other) can evolve, over time, in a very peculiar, even nonsensical fashion, to produce the situation and effects that today, we so easily accept as normal.

- We marked the 10th Anniversary of the invention of desktop publishing. In January, 1985, it was little more than an idea. Today almost all publishing of printed documents - newspapers, magazines, advertising is done 'from the desktop.' It has become the prepress standard.

- Windows '95 was introduced - which some wags described as the one billion dollar introduction of a ten year old technology layered onto a fifteen year old platform. 'Those who do not know the past are condemned to repeat it.'

- In 1995 everyone learned the word 'paradigm' - then just as quickly tried to avoid using it.

- FM/stochastic halftoning was still wobbling on the court - suffering from a severe lack of trade interest, technological support, and brutal overpricing. Along with other benefits, this potentially revolutionary technology allows low resolution imagesetters to outperform their higher resolution (read: higher priced and/or profit margined) in terms of image detail and quality. Low resolution imagesetters are both easier to manufacture and more affordable. It is interesting to note that it is actually a reintroduction of processes initially popularized by M.S. Bartlett of Cambridge University in 1955(!). It's also kind of interesting that some of the problems that I was faced with when I was using it in 1971 are still there today - it's just that the excuses I dealt with then were understandable given the state of technology at the time.

- Pantone Inc. introduced the Hexachrome six colour process. Judging by all the brochures that I've seen, by both Pantone and other companies who are using it - you can now finally achieve weird colour effects on expensive presses - if your prepress service provider wants to dump whatever proofing system they're currently using and invests in the only one that is Pantone's approved. I think I'll stay with the old fashioned 5 colour process that provides extended colour gamut for a closer match to colours not within the range of normal CMYK printing. It's been around for at least 20 years that I know of - and probably longer. An extra benefit of the old workhorse is that on a six colour press you still have an ink unit available for a varnish plate.

- Printers became service bureaus, prepress shops became service bureaus, and with the '95 introduction by Polaroid of their dry, processor-free film technology aimed at the non-trade market - ad agencies will finally be able to become service bureaus.

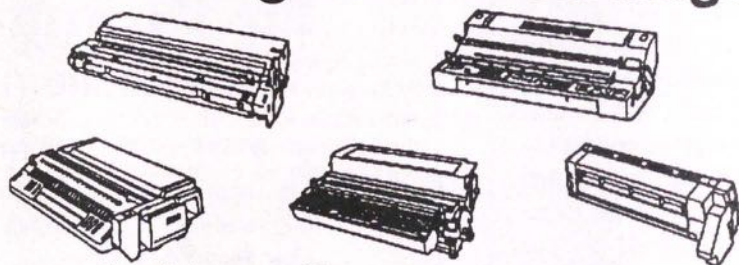
- Service bureaus scratched their collective heads in wonder.

- 1995 saw the real public introduction of the Internet, a technology/system which effectively does away with the need for the printed 'ink on paper' document when conveying information. As a result it was the only technology that managed to generate more ink on paper than the launch of Windows '95. The Internet has inverted the paradigm (darn, I used that word) that the publishing industry has been following since

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Gutenberg, in 1436, made use of an even older Chinese idea. The paradigm (darn, I used it again) of first you publish, then you distribute became instead: first you distribute (via the Internet) then you publish (at the receivers end on their system - video display or print). One possible result is that, in the future, fewer books will be printed (consuming valuable trees, paper, ink, landfill, etc.) that people aren't interested in buying (or keeping).

- The Information Highway became the Information Hypeway and then if you were caught using any term that was sanctioned in the popular press you ran the risk of being 'flamed as a newbie.'

- The Internet meant that a 12 year old boy in Atlanta Ga. could create a million dollar-plus business from his bedroom because on the Internet we all have potentially the same virtual presence. A twelve year old kid or General Motors is the same screen size on the 'Net.

- The developers of Netscape - a World Wide Web browser program - accidentally found computerdom's Holy Grail: a universal, cross platform interface that transparently allowed an Internaut to access for file uploading or downloading, anywhere in the world, in any format - known or unknown - compatible or not. This is something that even people who share the same computer can have a problem with. Of course most people didn't notice what had happened - but luckily the Netscape developers got rich anyway.

- Canada Post became toast - for delivery of any document that can be digitally encoded. This is the fate that all postal systems will have to deal with as they lose carrying rights to documents that can be sent via the Internet.

- Canada Post ever quick to respond to customer needs immediately answered the Internet threat by publishing a brochure entitled 'Remote Desktop Publishing.' In it they promote the idea that 'having your newsletter produced, printed and mailed by Canada Post saves

you tens of thousands of dollars' since 'getting designers, printers, and mailing houses to meet your budget and deadline constraints is a struggle.' You might want to snail mail Government Services minister David Dingwall your appreciation for the opportunity to compete for the decreasing print market against your tax subsidized Federal Government.

- Phone companies tried to understand how their carefully constructed EMail system was being lost to the anarchy of the Internet. In Alberta, the phone company quickly countered the threat by delivering television programming in competition to the local cable company.

- The first practical, targeted to the amateur market, digital camera: the Chinon ES 3000 shipped. Chinon figures that there are enough grannys and grandpas with computer systems and digital imaging technologies that want to see snaps of their grandchildren using those systems to make for a realistic, profitable market.

- Of course Chinon is right - folks over the age of 50 are statistically, the second largest Internet (i.e. computer savvy) user group. The first, of course, being 16 year old boys with over active hormones.

- Digital photography, at the professional end, has finally achieved the quality level potential associated with the hundred year old traditional analogue film method. No more environmental penalty because of wasted film and chemistry if photographers and clients reject a few images.

- Digital presses were all the news a graphic arts trade shows. They allow 'on demand' colour printing for short run lengths, typically less than a thousand copies. Again the negative impact on the environment of traditional printing is lessened: no film, no processing chemistry, and reusable imaging plates.

- The TopFont system formerly debuted in Vancouver. This cool software has two intriguing aspects. First it creates an Adobe Type One PostScript printer font - on the fly - for Chinese desktop publishing application. Neat trick when you consider that to do Chinese language DTP you have to deal with fonts that often contain between 3,000 and 13,000 characters per style! Also, typical (expensive) commercial fonts are often built into a dedicated imagesetter or printer serial code copy-protected so that they cannot be used on other printers. A second aspect is that mainland Chinese DTP artists can now finally use off the shelf (uncopy-protected) North American software rather than the chaos of dongle protected localized applications.

We live in interesting times indeed. □

**About the author:** Gordon Pritchard is with the Laser's Edge Company, he can be reached at phone: (604) 662-3774 or e-mail: gordo@le.mnis.com

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## The Secrets of Service Bureau Success

You've stayed up till 3:00 a.m. for the whole week, skipped lunch and dinner, and still don't know the score of last night's Canucks game; but it was worth it. Your twelve page project is finally ready for the service bureau, just in time for your client's deadline. Too bad you

forgot to include the company's logo on the Syquest. That'll cost you a day on the press, hundreds of dollars, and perhaps a lucrative client. Ouch!

This scenario will sound familiar to many new to the ubiquitous industry of "desktop publishing." That's what happens when a ten year old industry collides with the 500 year old traditions of print. It is the purpose of the service bureau to help soften that blow and prevent the catastrophe described above.

The service bureau is the most crucial step in the production process, because that is where your ideas, images, and words become more than magnetic bits of iron on plastic and take on physical form on the way to becoming a finished product. These are the ten most common and important questions asked at the service bureau. The answers will help you avoid most of the problems you are likely to face.

### How do I pick the right service bureau?

A good service bureau is one that can do everything you need, when you need it, for as much, or as little, as you're willing to pay. The most basic services to look for would be: colour scanning; optional black and white laser proofing; digital colour proofing; imagesetter (usually called Linotronic) output to paper and film using a true Adobe PostScript Raster Image Processor (RIP); and, when necessary, technical assistance at a reasonable hourly rate. With typical turnaround for film being four to 24 hours, be sure to allow for that time in your production schedule. If there is a premium for fast turnaround (usually four hours or less), allow for that cost in your budget.

What sets the best service bureau apart is, essentially a greater commitment to the industry. Look for new, state

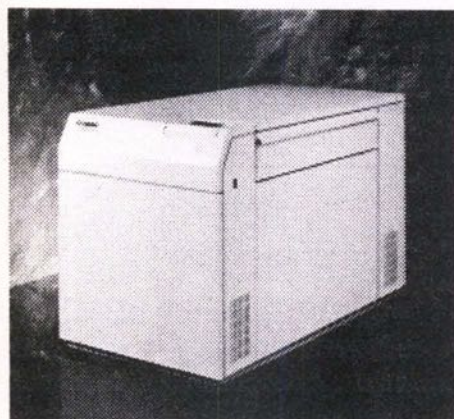


The Howtek D4000 drum scanner can scan prints or transparencies over 10 inches square with a resolution of 4000 dpi.

of the art imagesetters, computers, scanners, and high quality colour proofing systems all connected using a solid high-speed network. These places will likely offer additional services such as colour trapping, high resolution drum scanning and imposition of large film jobs. They will usually have more output options, such as large colour posters, short run colour printing, 35 mm film recorders, and large format film.

### What's the best way to set up my files?

Once you've found your service bureau, you need to make sure that your



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files are ready to output. First, find out which applications and versions they support. All worthy service bureaus will support PageMaker, QuarkXPress, Illustrator, FreeHand, and Photoshop on the Macintosh. If you're using Windows, it is crucial that your service bureau run such files on Windows systems, instead of a Macintosh. Any decent service bureau running Windows will support all the above programs, along with CorelDraw.

Since your service bureau is producing your output on a PostScript device, try to use EPS or TIFF as your primary graphics format when importing graphics in your layout. Both of these formats are optimized to print best to PostScript devices. Remember to send a copy of all your placed graphics with the output file. If necessary, most service bureaus offer file conversions between most popular formats, usually charged on an hourly basis.

If your program isn't supported, or if you feel capable, you might try printing a PostScript file to disk, which is possible from every Macintosh and Windows program. Almost all service bu-

reaus love PostScript files and may offer a discount, since they are less work to output. Be sure you understand the policy of PostScript files, though. Most can only send the file blindly to the imagesetter, so if it doesn't come out right, you could still be charged for the output. PostScript files are not for the uninitiated or faint of heart.

### How can I avoid font problems?

Easily half of the problems encountered with service bureaus involve fonts, or rather, the lack of them. While all major graphics applications will warn the operator that a file uses fonts not installed on the computer used to output that file, most can't look at the fonts used in the graphic images placed into that file. Those fonts will usually print out as Courier, if at all. Worse yet are the files that

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Phone	684-5466	681-7351	873-9952	669-2287	925-1238	689-8410	251-4600
Fax	684-5465	681-6185	873-9962	669-9137		689-8414	251-3600
Modem line #	684-8280		873-9851	call for registration	phone ahead	689-8415	251-2666
Platform							
PC	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mac	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
File Conversation	YES		Unix	YES		YES	
Other						YES	
Laser							
Output Max. DPI	600		600	1200 X 1200	600 X 600		600
Printer Brand	HP		Laserwriter select(Apple)	LaserMaster	Kodak		QMS
Output Max. Size	11 X 17 bleed		Letter(B&W) Tabloid(color)	12 X 19	11 X 17		11 X 14
Imagesetter							
Max. DPI	5080		4060	N/A		4064	4000 lines (35mm slide)
Brand	Linotype-Hell		Dainippon screen, Linotype Hell			Dainippon screen/Agfa Cg9600	8000 line (4X5)
Max. Size	29 X 22		27X39 (inc mark & color tags)			13.5X19.75 / 13X150	
Color Output							
Max. DPI	400	300	400	8000 lines	600 X 600	4064	300
Brand	XEROX Regal	Tektronix Dye Sublimation	Iris/ Rainbow/ Kodak Fiery	Matrix PCRZI	Kodak 1560	Dainippon screen	Tektronix
Type of Printer				300 dpi			
Max. Size	11 X 17-2 sided	Letter	22X22/ 11.9X17.2/ 11X17	135mm/4X5	11 X 17	13.5 X 19.75	8.5 X 11
Scanning							
Color Max. DPI	4000		6000	2700/slide	600 X 600	2400	600
B&W Max. DPI	4000		6000	300/Flatbed	600 X 600	2400	600
Color Keys							
Type of Color Key	Kodak		Fuji Color Art(+Laminate proof)			3M Color keys	N/A
Regular Turnaround(hr)	4 hrs		8 hrs	24 hrs/3 day	24 hrs (rush available)	As required	24 hrs
Media							
Floppy Disk	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
5 1/4 SyQuest	YES	YES	YES		YES	YES	YES
3 1/2 SyQuest	YES						
Magneto-Optical Disk(230MB)	YES		YES	YES			YES
Tape	YES		YES	EZ-135 SyQuest			
Other	Zip		1.3% Optical, CD, Zip Drive, 650 MB Optical				
Consulting	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Training	YES	NO	YES	YES			YES
Design Services	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Other Service	Imposition, typesetting, photo editing, film punching, laminates, blue lines, short run color, bindery, trapping	35 mm slide output	Imposition, Trapping, color correction, image manipulation, digital assembly, high speed modems, internet access(1SDN), CD Rom mastering	Multi media production, net page creation, CDI-interactive disk, interactive booth design, PC to video, audio visual services, slide duplication	Image retouching, enhance	Full graphic arts production	Multimedia design & production, web page design & production, multi-image AV



use fonts not supported by the service bureau. While some graphics programs will allow you to convert the text to curves (so that the computer no longer sees it as text, but as outlines) the most popular page layout programs do not.

Most service bureaus will support Adobe fonts on the Macintosh and CorelDraw fonts in Windows. If your service bureau doesn't directly support the fonts you're using, ask how they wish to handle your situation and develop a solution that respects the font copyright before your deadline. You may also try

sending a PostScript file described above, since fonts are converted to PostScript code when you save the file.

### How can I be sure I get the right colours?

Thanks to modern electronic publishing, it is now easier, and more affordable than ever, to add colour to your design. Your service bureau can output colour separations from your file as easily as plain black and white, but it introduces a new level of complexity. If you require process colour separations, every image

must have its colours defined in CMYK — process cyan, magenta, yellow and black. Scans from the service bureau will probably already be CMYK, but if they're from PhotoCD, clip art, or your own flatbed scanner, they may need to be converted in Photoshop or PhotoPaint.

Spot colours can be just as tricky. If you've assigned spot colours in your illustration program and placed them in your layout, it is crucial that the colour names are exactly the same, or the program will see them as different plates. Let your service bureau know when you're using duotones and which colours apply. That way when the colours are printed on top of each other, they mix appropriately.

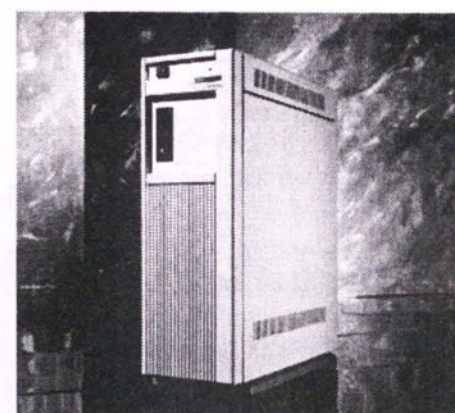
One last note on colour, and this may seem obvious. You must tell the service bureau that you need separations, and exactly which colours are to print. Don't assume they can tell just by opening your file.

### What do I need to know about scanning?

Many service bureaus today offer high quality colour, grayscale, and line art scanning. Drum scanners offer higher resolutions and more accurate colour than flatbeds, but take more time to set up and scan, so choose wisely. If you're

getting a colour scan, you'll want the highest resolution appropriate, without making the resulting file unmanageable. Once you know the final size the image will be printed at, and the line screen used, you can use the formula (line screen x 2 x scale%) ÷ 100% = scan resolution (in pixels per inch).

For best results, your originals should be either photographic prints or transparencies. Printed matter, like a magazine cover, will require descreening to eliminate the dot pattern present when printing. Ask about the of scanners they use and how you could best provide your originals.



Look for a genuine Adobe PostScript RIP (raster image processor), such as the RIP 50 from Linotype-Hell.

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Company Name	Chroma Tech Inc.	Grafix Xpress Inc.	Key Colour Imaging	COPYCO Service Ltd	ASAP Printing Centre	Image Factory Inc	On Demand Colour
Address	8783 Cambie St Van V6P 3J9	120-8211 Ackroyd Rd	15 Victoria	102-1014 Homer St	150-840 Howe St Van	133-1112 Houseshoe Way	1190 Seymour
Phone	324-8324	270-2679	253-8787	684-3655	685-2727	272-5447	669-0038
Fax		270-1594	253-6889	684-3654	685-2773	272-3250	669-6415
Modem line #		270-1335		683-6995		272-5066	YES
Platform							
PC	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mac	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
File Conversation			SGI				YES
Other							
Laser							
Output Max. DPI		400			600	600	400 X 400
Printer Brand		Xerox			Apple 630	Apple laser 16/600 Ps	Xerox Majestik
Output Max. Size		11 X 17			11 X 17	Legal	11 X 17
Imagesetter			(Film recorder)				
Max. DPI	5000	2400	2032	2540		3386	2400
Brand	Linotype-Hell 930	Agfa	Light Jet	Linotronic		Linotronic 330	Scitex
Max. Size	29 X 44	12	11X14	11.9		12 X 50	19 X 25
Color Output							
Max. DPI		400	400	400	400	400	300
Brand		Xerox majestik 5765	Cannon CLC 700	Xerox regal W/Lyclone Rip	Cannon	Fiery 200/Kodak 1525	Tencad Novajet III
Type of Printer							
Max. Size		11 X 17	11X17	11 X 17	11 X 17	Tabloid	3ft X 10ft
Scanning							
Color Max. DPI	600	1200	5000			5000	400
B&W Max. DPI	600	1200	5000	600	400-high speed doc. imaging	1200	400
Color Keys							
Type of Color Key	NAPS	3 M				3M	Fuji overlays & Fuji laminate
Regular Turnaround(hr)	1 day	10 hrs	4-72 hrs	4 hrs - no rush rates		8 hrs	20 X 24
Media							
Floppy Disk	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
5 1/4 SyQuest	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
3 1/2 SyQuest							
Magneto-Optical Disk(230MB)	YES		YES			YES	YES
Tape							YES
Other				Zip		Berjovilli 90, E-Z dr 135 SyQuet 44/88/200	Zip
Consulting	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Training	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
Design Services	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Other Service	All prepress including manual table stripping	Printing, copying, inhouse computer rentals	Electrostatic 5" X any length	Complete photocopying, binding, laminating, golf tips		CD-ROM relording	Offset printing



Since some scans can run a hundred megabytes or more, it would be silly to copy that much information onto your system, just so you can send it back when getting your output. If you won't be modifying the scan (except to scale or crop it in your layout program), you can request an FPO (for position only) file. This is a low resolution version that you can treat just like it's big brother, without working with huge, slow files. Just tell the service bureau to link to high resolution images when getting your output, and they'll take care of the rest.

Most service bureaus don't charge anything for this, since it saves them backing up huge files and virtually guarantees that you'll be back.

### What's this "line screen" thing?

The most overlooked, yet vital piece of information is your printer's line screen requirements. Line screen, in lines per inch, is a measure of how close together the printed dots that simulate colour shades are printed. Line screen is usually determined by your printer as a function of the press used and the stock

you are printing on. Line screens below 100 lpi can be output at 1270 dots per inch on an imagesetter without sacrificing quality to save money. For images above 100 lpi you'll need to output at 2540 dpi or higher. An emerging option is stochastic screening, which can often produce stunning results at lower resolutions, although not all printers currently support this capability.

Just as important as line screen, when outputting to film, are emulsion options. Do you want the film positive or negative? Emulsion up or down?

Again, don't ignore these. Work with your service bureau and printer to find out what you need.

### Should I get proofs?

Today's service bureaus offer a wealth of proofing options, to save a few bucks to a few hundred on output, or to save a few thousand on printing. Your service bureau can run a test of your file to a black and white laser printer before going to high resolution paper or film. For colour work, you should check proofs run to a calibrated digital proof-

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Address	2-136 W 3rd St North Van	1409 West Pender St Van	15 East Broadway	100-1112 West Pender St	1744 West 4th Ave. Van	120-10991 Shellbridge Way
Phone	986-0308	681-7504	879-6603	662-3774	736-4571	270-8545
Fax	986-0328	681-6618	879-8499	681-2300	736-5689	270-2031
Modem line #		681-7436	879-8493	662-8683		270-4940
Platform						
PC	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mac	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
File Conversation						
Other						
Laser						
Output Max. DPI	600	600	N/A	800	400	600
Printer Brand	Micro Laser Pro	Docutech Electronic Publisher		Data Products	Cannon / Xerox 3386	QMS
Output Max. Size	Letter	11 X 17 / A3		11 X 17	11 X 17 / 36 X 16	Tabloid
Imagesetter						
Max. DPI			4060	3600	N/A	4064
Brand			Linotype	Agfa Selectset 7000		DS1035 (Dainippon Screen) Drum
Max. Size			30 X 20	22 X 25.7		13.5 X 20
Color Output						
Max. DPI	400/300/300	400		300	Cannon case/large format ink jet	600
Brand	Xerox / Rasterops /	Cyclone		Way Big	HP / Cannon	Apple color laserwriter
Type of Printer	LaserMaster					12/600
Max. Size	11X17/8X11/34X100	11 X 17 / A3		36X108	11.X17 / 36 X 16	Legal
Scanning						
Color Max. DPI	2000	600	4000	6000	400	2700(Drum) 4800(Flatbed)
B&W Max. DPI	2000	400	4000	6000	400	2700(Drum) 4800(Flatbed)
Color Keys						
Type of Color Key			Overlay	3 M		Overlay
Regular Turnaround(hr)	24 hrs	immediate to 48 hrs	4 hrs	<12 hrs	8 hrs	6 hrs
Media						
Floppy Disk	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
5 1/4 SyQuest	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
3 1/2 SyQuest				YES		YES
Magneto-Optical Disk(230MB)				YES		YES
Tape		YES		YES		YES
Other	Bervoulli 90	CD ROM	Zip Drive	Bernoulli, 10 mega Zip	Zip Drive	E-Z, DAT
Consulting	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES
Training	YES		YES	YES	NO	YES
Design Services	YES		YES	NO	NO	YES
Other Service	Kodak photo CD	Color output, megachrome color digital prints, drymounting, lamination & finishing, B/W photographic services (PMT's etc.), bindery.	Supports Chinese on both PCs and Macs.	Imposition, trapping, production, retouching, short run color, line screen conversion, BM match print caminate proofing		OCR / translations

*Note: Vancouver Service Bureau Listing from information faxed back. Some omissions due to insufficient data.*



ing system. Calibration being the operative word, so ask them to demonstrate their calibration. The options are dye sublimation, continuous tone laser, or ink jet printers. This is especially important for process colour work, since no computer monitor can accurately simulate the process colour environment.

Many printers working in process colours will require a press proof made from the very film they will use to make

your printing plates. It's the only way to be sure that the colour on the press is accurate. You can choose from colour overlays and laminates.

### How can I send my files to the service bureau?

Your file is all set up, the colours are properly defined, and your order form is all filled out in triplicate and notarized by the Queen. All that's left is to get the

file to your service bureau. Due to the size of graphic and publication files, floppy disks are often impractical. A good investment at this stage would be a high capacity removable disk drive. Most service bureaus support Syquest, magneto optical, Iomega Zip drives, and a host of other options.

Thanks to affordable, fast modems and the Internet, many service bureaus allow you to send your files electroni-

cally. Some offer a free, direct bulletin-board-system with speeds up to 28.8 kilobytes per second. Your service bureau might even have presence on the Internet, allowing you to upload directly to their server. You will need to fax a completed order form with specific details on what your file is called and how it was sent.

If none of these options appeals to you, and your files are small enough, you could send them on floppy disks. To make the files more manageable there are several shareware and commercial file compression programs available. The best of these are Stuffit Deluxe and CompactPro for the Macintosh and PKZip for DOS.

### Can I be sure I've done everything right?

If you've followed all the above instructions, your files should be RIP ready. You might want to try simulating the prepress environment to make sure that what you see is what you get.

Copy the files you've just backed up to a new, empty directory on your hard drive, and work only from those files. Follow the instructions you've written on the form and print the file exactly as needed, including colour separations. If your printer can't handle the size of your image, scale it down so that it fits on the page (crop and registration marks add about one inch). If you have a PostScript laser printer you can test PostScript files by downloading them directly. Look at each page, especially if you're using process colours. If an image printed only on the black plate when you wanted colour, it may be an RGB image.

This may seem like a waste of time and paper, but it could cost you more time and money if anything goes wrong later.

### Is that it?

These are not so much rules as rules-of-thumb. Each service bureau offers different services and will have specific requests to make from their clients. These steps will seem overwhelming if you're new to the service bureau experience, but become second nature with experience and determination.

Ultimately, you want to deal with a service bureau that treats you with respect and that you can trust do it right the first time, every time. If you've filled out your order form, provided laser proofs as insurance, and done everything listed here, then there's little to prevent your experiences with your service bureau from being pleasant and mutually beneficial. □

*This article is compiled by the team at WYSIWYG Prepress, reach them at 604-684-5466.*

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# Digital and ISDN modems

By Sean Elrington

Over the past year or so things have gotten rather complex when it comes to modems. Many datacom vendors are now promoting 'digital modems' with their routers and other remote access equipment. What is a 'digital modem'? Unfortunately, the term 'digital modem' can refer to three different things; a CSU/DSU, an ISDN TA/ NT1 or a modem capable of receiving digital bits in and out with the analog modulation/demodulation being done internally.

A bit confused? Hang in there.

A true analog modem can only run up to 33,600 bits per second over ordinary telephone lines. Dedicated or switched circuits running faster than

that will typically use a Channel Service Unit / Digital Service Unit (CSU/DSU) on the line. These units power the line and look much like an ordinary data centre modem. Because the link is digital from end to end, there is no need for an analog signal so CSU/DSUs are not really true modems. Nevertheless, many people do refer to them as 'digital modems'.

An ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) TA and NT1 are often combined into one unit and sometimes called a 'digital modem'. The NT1 (Network Termination Unit One) provides power to the line and takes the 2-wire ISDN line in through a 'U' interface and converts it into a 4-wire line.

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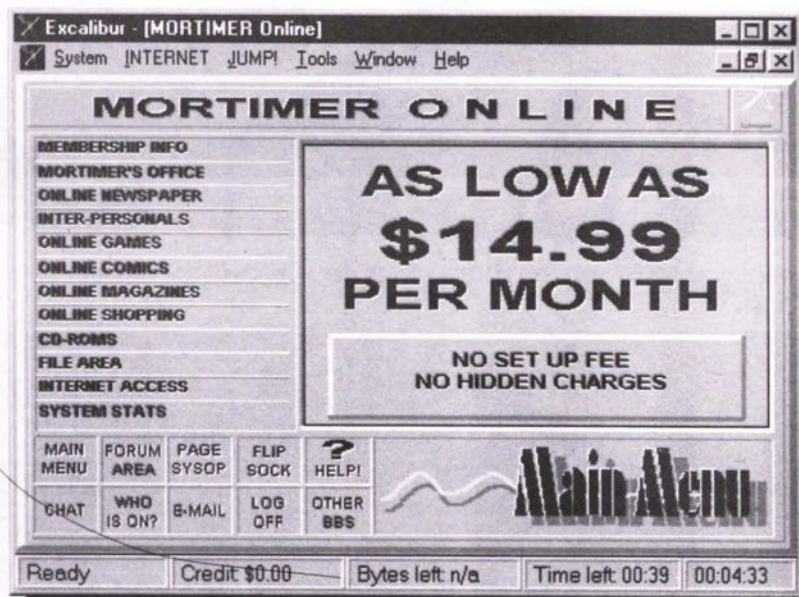
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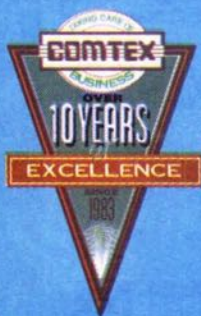
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The output to the TA goes through an 'S/T' bus. If you buy a device with an 'S/T' interface you will also need to buy an external NT1. If you are buying a router with a 'U' interface then you can usually just plug the phone line directly into it.

The Terminal Adapter (TA) takes the 4-wire line and connects it to a router or other communications equipment. The TA also performs some control functions on the line such as 'bonding' the two 64,000 bit per seconds ISDN B channels into one 128,000 bits per second channel. The TA and NT1 are often combined into one unit and sometimes even incorporated into a router.

Most recently, the term 'digital modem' has come to mean a modem which receives digital input and also has digital output. A brief digital-analog-digital conversion is done within the modem but the output is digital. A normal analog modem typically receives digital input and outputs an analog wave.

Why would someone require such a modem? Imagine that you are an Internet Service Provider (ISP) with a mix of clients. Some call in digitally, using dedicated lines or ISDN, and some customers call in using analog modems. You could run separate modem pools with TA/NT1s, CSU/DSUs and analog modems but this is rather cumbersome. Also, you may have chosen to consolidate all of your incoming calls onto a high bandwidth digital line like a T1.

Handling your digital calls is straightforward enough, but what about your analog dial-up customers? The modem at the customer's end is encoding the original bit stream from their computer in an analog wave and sending it over the phone line. At the telephone switch the call becomes re-digitized and it remains digital thereafter as it travels through the phone system and is delivered to your ISP via a digital phone line like a T1 link. In order to 'decode' the call a modem must turn the phone company's digital bit stream into an analog signal and then re-digitize it into a form that the router can use. A digital modem does this conversion internally resulting in a digital-in, digital-out process.

Another common related phrase is 'ISDN modem'. This typically refers to a TA/NT1 unit,

however some vendors have started to put both an analog modem and a TA/NT1 in one unit. Some ISPs suggest these unit to their clients because it allows ISPs who can only receive analog calls now, to upgrade to ISDN in the future with-

out their clients having to buy new equipment. It also allows people like telecommuters, who have ISDN residential lines, the ability to dial into bulletin boards and other 'analog only' services. □

About the author: *Sean Elrington is Marketing Manager of ZED Data Systems, he can be reached by SeanE@zed.ca or voice (604) 473-9331.*

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# Computer Conferencing on the MBONE

By Andrew Daviel

You may have heard of the Mbone and wondered what it was. Several rock concerts have been broadcasted on this medium, including one from the Rolling Stones. NASA missions are routinely sent over the Mbone, as are Internet events such as the WWW and IETF conferences. The media always says that it requires "special equipment" to receive these transmissions. This "special equipment" is merely a computer with a modern UNIX operating system, such as a PC costing \$2500 and running FreeBSD, NetBSD or Linux. A soundcard is required to receive audio, and a TV camera and video grabber are required to broadcast your own material.

Mbone stands for "multicast backbone". Although LANs such as Ethernet are capable of multicast (transmitting the same packets to multiple destinations), the Internet as a whole currently is not. The way around this is to establish a network of multicast routers around the world, linked by "tunnels". Each multicast data packet has a TTL parameter that controls how far it will travel. Packets with a TTL of 127 will cross the world.

Multicast is similar to the regular Internet protocol, except that it goes to more than one place. A block of ip addresses starting with 224 is set aside for multicast, and each address can have many "ports", so that the address space is quite large, kind of like having a few hundred thousand TV channels. There's a finite bandwidth, though, so there can't currently be more than one or two events with worldwide coverage at the same time.

Several applications have been written to use multicast addressing for remote conferencing. These include video, audio and whiteboard tools which allow users at many sites around the world to receive transmissions from a single source. Users can also participate by asking questions or writing on a whiteboard. The tools can also be used point-to-point using regular ip addresses

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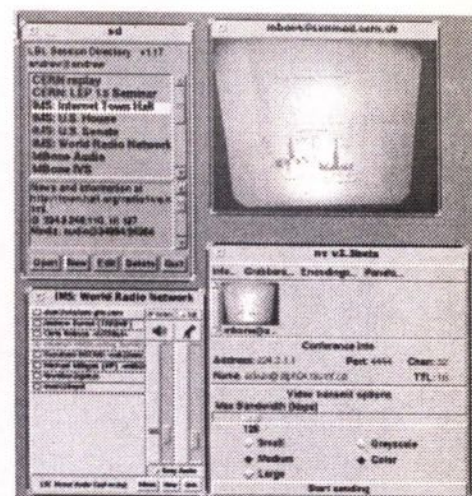
to link two workstations. For multicast transmissions, they are usually controlled by a session tool, which displays information about available sessions, passing address and port data to the individual tools.

They are quite sophisticated, supporting encryption, control of right-to-

talk, and several encoding methods. While available for many flavours of UNIX, including those that run on a PC, they are not yet available for Windows - but with Windows NT and Windows 95 having better Internet support and multitasking, it is surely just a matter of time.

The snapshot shows the session directory tool, an audio tool, and video tool. The video tool can accommodate multiple sources, shown as separate thumbnails. Clicking on the thumbnail produces a larger viewing window.

Normal transmissions use 128kbps for video and 64kbps for audio using



PCM coding. GSM coding can reduce the audio bandwidth to about 10kbps, while the video bandwidth can be reduced by adjusting the transmitted frame rate. Don't expect to see the NASA transmissions through a 28.8 modem, though,

The Mbone is still classed as experimental, so is not available yet from most commercial ISPs, though it is possible to set up your own tunnel from your LAN to a nearby (in Net terms) Mbone router. □

For more information about the Mbone, conference tools, mailing lists etc. see <http://vancouver-webpages.com/mbone>

About the author: *Andrew Daviel* is robotmaster at Vancouver Webpages, he can be reached at e-mail: [andrew@vancouver-webpages.com](mailto:andrew@vancouver-webpages.com)

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# Using Internet Applications With Windows 95

*Information from Microsoft Corp.*

## Introduction

Windows 95 provides support for users to access the Internet, regardless of the application or the service provider they choose. Most applications run fine under Windows 95, however some applications use non-standard components and may require special configuration to run correctly under Windows 95.

The purpose of this article is to answer commonly asked questions regarding these applications, provide background regarding Windows 95 support for the Internet, and to inform users how to configure these applications to run correctly under Windows 95.

## Can I run Compuserve/Spry Internet in a box, Mosaic, Netscape, etc. with Windows 95?

Yes, all of these applications run with Windows 95. Some applications (listed below), use either non-industry-standard or real-mode components and some configuration is needed.

## Can I use my third party browser with Windows 95's own TCP/IP and Winsock?

Yes.

## Can I run multiple browsers on my Windows 95 system? Can I run third-party browsers together with Microsoft's own Internet Explorer?

Yes.

## Does installing Microsoft's own Internet Explorer overwrite, remove, or disable my existing Internet browser?

No. In some cases, special configuration may be needed.

## Background

### Internet Support in Windows 95

Microsoft Windows 95 provides easy access to the Internet, whether you dial into a commercial Internet provider or you gain access via your corporate network. Windows 95 provides all the "plumbing" you need to tap into the information on the worldwide Internet network. Microsoft is committed to the openness of the Internet and to industry standards, and to making Windows 95 the easiest platform to explore the Internet, regardless of the application or the service provider. Built-in support for TCP/IP, dial-up protocols, such as Point to Point Protocol (PPP) and Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP), and Windows Sockets make connecting to the Internet

just a mouse-click away.

By providing these services as part of the base operating system, Windows 95 represents a huge step forward over

previous versions of Windows. An analogy can be drawn to Windows printer drivers. Prior to Windows, users were forced to go to the vendor of each application to obtain the driver for their specific printer. That driver was specific not only to the printer, but also to the application – a user could not use that driver with another vendor's application. This placed a burden on both the user,

who had to find each driver, and also the vendor, who had to develop the driver. By providing printer drivers in Microsoft Windows, both the users and application developers benefited – users could use a single driver for all applications, and application vendors could be free of writing driver-dependent code. Similarly, providing

*(Continued on page 64)*

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# ISP demise greatly exaggerated

By Iain Black

This just in: We're all on a crash course with disaster!

Over the dozen or so years in which I've been deeply entrenched in the computer industry, every type of technology and size of company has been labeled at one time as, ahem, "terminally" ill by outsiders and insiders alike. I've been on both sides of the fence on this one.

During the years where I worked with voracious users of high-end technology, my colleagues and I sat about, waxing on, in our knowledgeable ways, about how "company x" surely won't be in business in a few months or how a particular technology is finished and should let the latest buzz take over. Later, I was an employee who experienced, first-hand, what is likely history's most profound and largest corporate turnaround and restructuring in a little upstart company called IBM which just refused to die. From this I gained a more balanced perspective - and patience - for such predictions.

Thus it was with interest that I listened to academic and industry voices debate what 1996 will hold in store for the Internet and its various players at the Internet World '96 conference in Toronto last mid-January. These conferences usually have speakers who have minor differences on the same general theme or opinion. Indeed, everyone seemed to agree that: i) the Internet is Big and getting BIGGER, ii) the commercialization of the Internet is beyond its adolescence stage and is entering its cantankerous puberty phase and iii) everyone (including the speakers) is having a difficult time keeping up with the speed of change within this phenomena.

However, beyond that, there were some radically different thoughts as to where the Internet is headed and what - or who - the major influences will be in 1996 and 1997.

A few speakers feared the entire collapse of the Internet in 1996, due to the overwhelming growth of the Internet and the inability of the worldwide communications infrastructure to handle the

volume of users. Of interest was the consistent disinterest (by all the speakers I heard address the question) in the cable companies coming to participate in the Internet arena. There was a general consensus that no one is a true expert on the Internet as the Internet keeps changing daily.

But the one that caught my attention a little more than the others was the pronouncement by one speaker that all Internet service providers (ISPs) would be out of business by the end of the year. As the owner of an ISP, I certainly stirred in my seat to better hear the details of my demise.

The essence of what the speaker said was that any small ISP would likely not survive the onslaught of the Canadian national providers and the migration of on-line service giants such as CompuServe and America On-line Canada (who, I might tangentially add, had the cultural courtesy to call themselves AOL Canada, with no mention of the actual "A" word). Interestingly enough, she shared the opinion that the arrival of the cable giants to the Internet game was only thought to be really relevant by the cable companies themselves (which drew chuckles from the crowd) and that they would not be any force in the Internet arena for at least 12-36 months, with their role and impact thereafter being questionable.

To be fair to her viewpoint, though, the 1995 acquisitions of a couple of local, established ISPs by a national Internet provider does indicate a fair amount of activity out there. In my humble opinion it represents something other than a carte blanche steam roll of us spirited little guys by the big fellas with some dough to spend.

What has started to happen, and will continue to happen, is a fragmentation (vs a demolition) of a maturing marketplace into 3 distinct classifications:

1. The owners of large networks specifically for the purpose of being in the Internet game.

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2. The owners of large networks that figure they want to be in the Internet game, too.

3. The owners of small service providers, owning ranges of sizes of physical networks, with a variety of niche services and connections to offer customers.

What has started to come out is that each of the three groups competes on quite different levels, often for different customers. Not everyone can be the lowest priced player; not everyone wants to be. Much like boxing, I think you'll see pretty intensive heavy weight fighting between the bigger players and continued competition between us smaller welter weights. If I were to make a prediction on ISP survival, I would say that any ISP that cannot fit into one of the above categories will not make it.

But how do the little guys play in the same arena as the big guys?

The same way they always have: by going with their strengths in being more reactive both to the business climate and to customers' needs, by being able to more closely impact customer service and quality control, and most importantly, by demonstrating to customers

any additional value they realized as a result of doing business with them.

Personally, I think 1996 represents a fabulous opportunity for both the ISPs and our present and potential customers. This evolving marketplace will keep us sharp, focused on defining, developing and delivering the value we bring to our customers through our variety of services and staying acutely aware of who specifically we should target for customers to best create the buyer-seller expectation and relationship.

Given the spirit and history of both small business and small technology-based business in BC, I suspect our customers will continue to have a great selection of avenues onto the Internet for some time yet. □

About the author: *Iain Black is the General Manager of E-Z Net Internet Services Ltd., a Vancouver-based Internet Service Provider with a focus on Small Business, the Family and the "technically challenged". At last check, he was still breathing. He can be reached at (604) 873-8403.*

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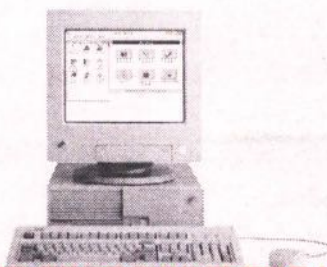
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## Using Internet Applications With Windows 95

(Continued from page 61)

system support for Internet services means that users will no longer have to find vendor-specific Internet files, and Internet application developers can concentrate on creating great applications such as world-wide-web

browsers for their users instead of spending development cycles on low-level drivers.

### Windows Sockets

Providing support for Windows Socket services allows use of any of the

large collection of third-party and public-domain Internet utilities to easily connect to the Internet and access the thousands of worldwide information servers. Windows 95 includes the industry standard Windows Sockets 1.1, based on the U.C. Berkeley Sockets specification. Windows Sockets is installed when a user chooses to install either the Microsoft TCP/IP or the

Microsoft IPX/SPX compatible protocol.

Most Internet tools work fine with the Windows Socket support that ships with Windows 95. Some Internet applications, however, rely on extended, proprietary versions of Windows Sockets to function. This article explains how to configure these applications so that they will work properly with Windows 95.

### Configuring Specific Applications Under Windows 95

#### Applications Using Proprietary Windows Sockets Support

Some applications rely on extended versions of Windows Sockets for dialing and other vendor specific functions. Most of these applications install their proprietary version of WINSOCK.DLL (the file that provides Windows Sockets support) in their own application directory and work fine with Windows 95. Some applications, however install their version of WINSOCK.DLL in the Windows directory. This can lead to conflicts with Windows 95's Windows Sockets 1.1 support (which also includes a file called WINSOCK.DLL) and their application may not function correctly.

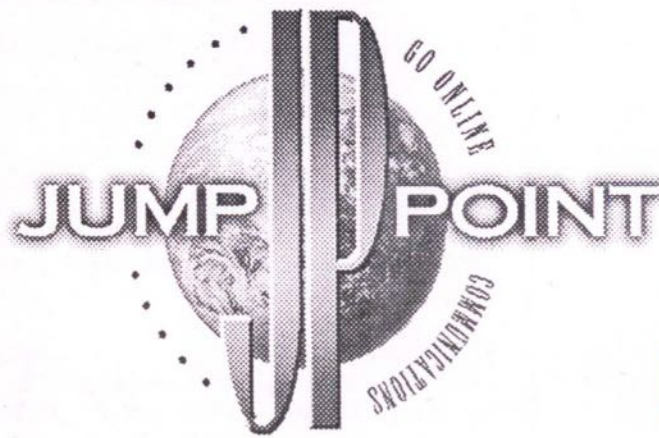
The following applications are known to install a proprietary version of WINSOCK.DLL in the Windows directory:

- CompuServe NetLauncher 1.00.66
- Spy Mosaic In A Box 1.0, 1.1, 2.0
- Network Telesystems TCP Pro Remote

Microsoft has been working with the vendors of the above applications for the past few months on resolving this issue. Microsoft has published guidelines for application developers that encourage them to place any vendor-specific files in the application directory, rather than the Windows directory. All of the vendors of the above products have committed to modifying their installation procedure so that it installs their version of WINSOCK.DLL in the application directory. A fix is already available from CompuServe that moves their file from the Windows directory into the appropriate application directories, and this issue will be resolved with their next release, due in September.

There are 2 scenarios where a user might experience this issue with Windows 95:

1. A user has one of the above applications, with a vendor-specific WINSOCK.DLL in the Windows directory, and upgrades to Windows 95.
2. A user is running Windows 95 with the Microsoft standard WINSOCK.DLL and installs one of the above applications, which attempts to overwrite the Microsoft standard version.



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### Scenario 1: Upgrading to Windows 95 With Existing Application

If the user chooses to install either Microsoft TCP/IP or the Microsoft IPX/SPX compatible protocol when upgrading to Windows 95, the existing WINSOCK.DLL in the Windows directory is renamed WINSOCK.OLD and the Windows 95 WINSOCK.DLL is placed in the Windows directory. This renaming may also take place if the user installs the Internet Jumpstart Kit. This may cause the above applications to no longer function correctly.

### Scenario 2: Installing New Third-Party Application Under Windows 95

If the user has installed either Microsoft TCP/IP or the Microsoft IPX/SPX compatible protocol, or the Internet Jumpstart Kit, when they install one of the above applications, the Windows 95 WINSOCK.DLL is replaced by the vendor-specific version. The application's install program may or may not prompt the user to overwrite the existing file. Immediately after installing the application, Windows 95 may detect that a system file has changed and automatically copy a backup of the Windows 95 WINSOCK.DLL from the WINDOWS\SYSBCKUP directory (created automatically by Windows 95) into the Windows directory, overwriting the vendor-specific version.

In both scenarios, the solution is to copy the WINSOCK.OLD from the Windows directory to the application's directory and rename the new copy WINSOCK.DLL. Make sure that the application's working directory and any configuration information point to the application directory, rather than the Windows directory.

Another solution is to rename the proprietary WINSOCK.OLD to WINSOCK.DLL, and to rename Microsoft's standard WINSOCK.DLL to WINSOCK.OLD. This method may have an effect on other applications that rely on the industry standard Windows Sockets 1.1 support, such as Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

### Applications That Rely On Real-Mode Networking

Some applications include 16-bit, real-mode networking drivers to communicate over the Internet. These real-mode drivers may conflict with Windows 95's 32-bit, protect-mode TCP/IP implementation.

Netscape Navigator Personal Edition 1.1 is one of the applications known to include their own real-mode networking components.

Netscape Navigator Personal Edition 1.2 solves this issue by using an all-VxD (no real mode driver) solution. For Netscape Navigator Personal Edition 1.1 users, Netscape Communications will be offering an

upgrade to Netscape Navigator Personal Edition 1.2. For more information, check out <http://home.netscape.com/comprod/upgrades/index.html>.

If you want to configure Netscape Navigator Personal Edition 1.1 to work with Windows 95, you may need to disable Windows 95's 32-bit TCP/IP, and re-enable the application's 16-bit drivers. To do this:

1. Open the file C:\autoexec.bat in Notepad and add 'rem' (no quotes) to the beginning of the line c:\windows\netstart

2. Remove 'rem - By Windows 95 Network - ' from the line

rem - By Windows 95 Network -  
C:\NETSCAPE\NDIS\NETBIND (or similar).

3. Save this file.

4. Open the file C:\config.sys in

Notepad and remove 'rem - By Windows 95 Network - ' from the line

rem - By Windows 95 Network -  
DEVICE=C:\NETSCAPE\NDIS\PROTMAN.DOS /  
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5. Save this file.

6. Close the Notepad application and restart Windows 95 so that your changes will take effect. You should now be able to use the above applications in the usual manner.

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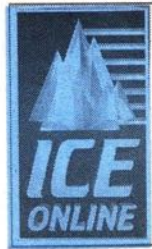
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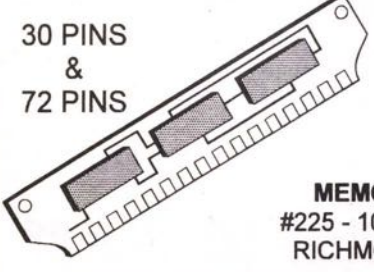
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# 中文視窗 95 的輸入法

期待已久的中文視窗 95 正式版終於問世了。筆者就中文視窗的專有功能來做一個報導。

中文視窗跟英文版的不同應是輸入法的選擇。在工作列的右方或是下方(視工作列是橫排或是直排而定)除了時鐘以外,另有輸入法的小標示。按滑鼠上的左邊按鈕,螢幕上會出現已安裝的輸入法清單,有一個箭頭指示出現用的輸入法。

如果小標示是"En",這表示現用的輸入方式是英文。如果您選用任何一種中文輸入法,在輸入法的小標示上按滑鼠的右方的按鈕,就會出現一個小視窗,提供三個選擇:第一個選擇是"螢幕小鍵盤";第二個選擇是"標點符號";第三個選擇是"內容"。如果要顯示小鍵盤在螢幕上,就在螢幕小鍵盤的選項上按一下,即可見到一個鍵盤顯示在螢幕上,

并告訴你每一個按鍵代表的意義。使用者不必去記每個鍵的對應輸入碼,特別是選用了注音輸入法。鍵盤對應選擇有四種,每種選擇的鍵盤對應都不一樣。所以如果你使用已印好注音符號的中文鍵盤,就不能改變鍵盤對應的選擇,否則只會增加困擾。

內容的選項是用來選擇查詢組字字根的顯示方式,是否使用浮動組字視窗及是否使用相關字詞的功能。

當你鍵入一個字以後,如果這個字有相關的字詞,在組字視窗中會出現一些相關的字或詞。如果沒有任何相關的字詞在組字視窗中出現,出現的是你所選定的字根顯示方式。譬如說,你選用的輸入方式為倉頡,而組字字根設定為注音,當您鍵入"金", "女"之後,再按空白鍵,在螢幕上會出現"金女"。而在組字視窗中顯示的是"ㄐㄩㄣˇ"。您可以選用任何輸入法,設定組字字根用另外一種輸入法。這將為您用某一種輸入法組字後,可以順便學習到另外一種輸入的方法。

組字視窗有兩種選擇,浮動式及固定式,固定式組字視窗是連接在輸入法的小圖示右邊。如果移動小圖示,組字視窗也會跟著浮動。浮動式組字視窗出現地點不定。如果有相關字詞時會出現另一個視窗。這個相關字詞的視窗一般是在組字視窗的右邊。但是如是組字視窗右方沒有足夠的位置,則相關字詞視窗會在組字視窗的左邊。輸入鍵的組合

若有錯誤,組字視窗中出現的符號會顯示為紅色。讓你知道這樣的組合是不對的。當您輸入正確的字以後,相關字詞視窗會出現一些字詞,在每個字詞之前有一個數目字,您可以按 Shift 鍵再加上數目字選取所需的字詞。也可以直接用滑鼠選用。

中文視窗 95 的輸入法比 3.1 版的中文視窗改進了很多。不過筆者仍然認為是否要顯示小鍵盤,應該是放在輸入法的圖示前邊,而不是要在選定輸入法後,再經過這到手續顯示或是隱藏小鍵盤。另外有一點值得稱道的是,如果您同時使用幾個不同的程式,每一個程式均可選用不同的輸入方式,各自獨立,不會有任何衝突。也許有人會問道,這有什麼好處?筆者認為這是程式設計彈性的表現。讓您在任何環境下均能自由的選擇所喜愛的設定及使用方式,而不必每次都要重新改變。

需要切換輸入時,可按 Alt 及 Shift 鍵,或是 Ctrl 及 Shift 鍵這兩種方式可由使用者字定。3.1 視窗是用 Ctrl 家空白鍵。這各有好處。不過我認為對於已經很熟悉 3.1 的使用方法的用者,這些小改變是會需要一段時間調查的。很多人的反應是中文視窗 95 不管是中文版還是英文版,對於新用戶可能還有吸引力,但是對於 3.1 版的老手,則不見得有那麼友善了。

**About the author:** Thomas Young is president of TKC Knowledge Centre, he can be reached at (604) 273-1118.

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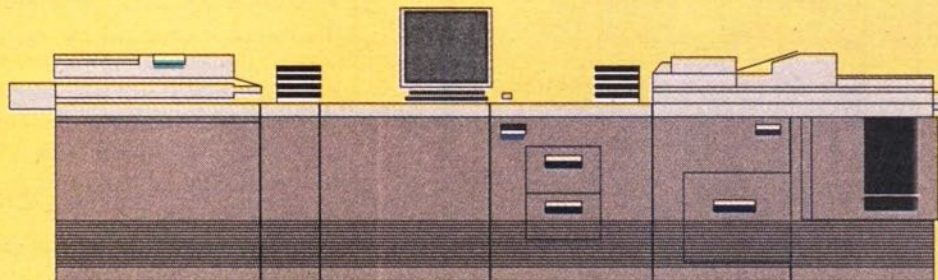
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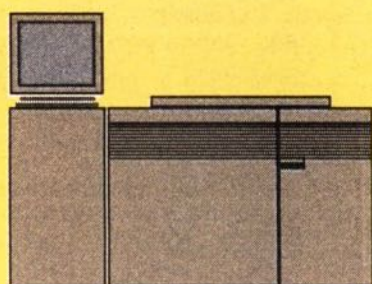


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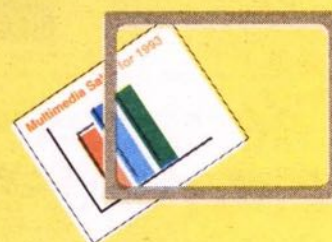
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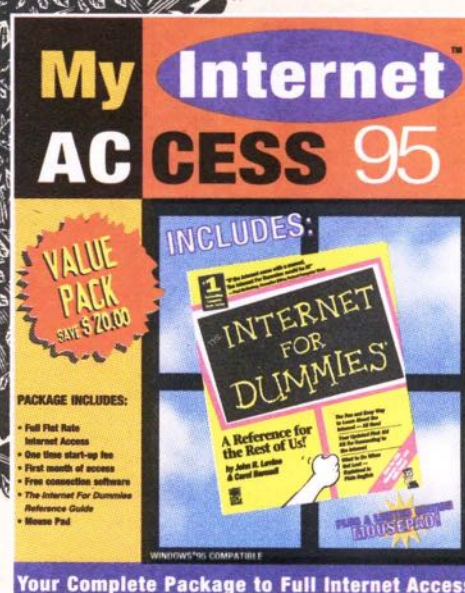
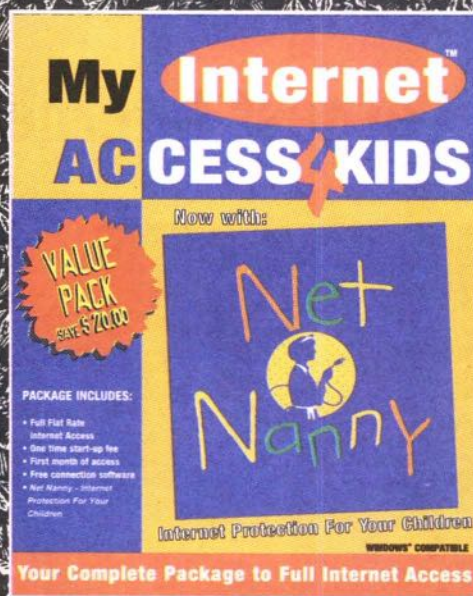
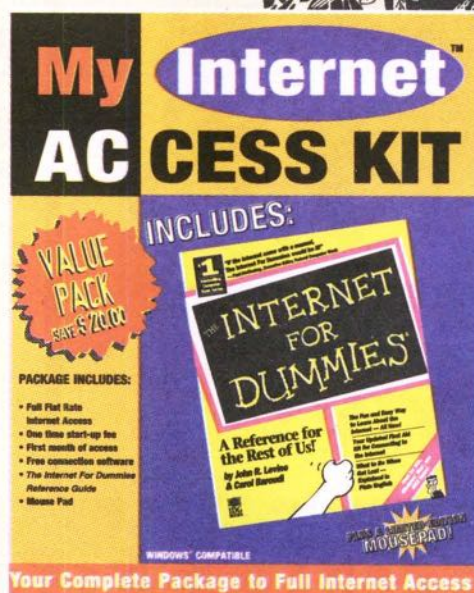
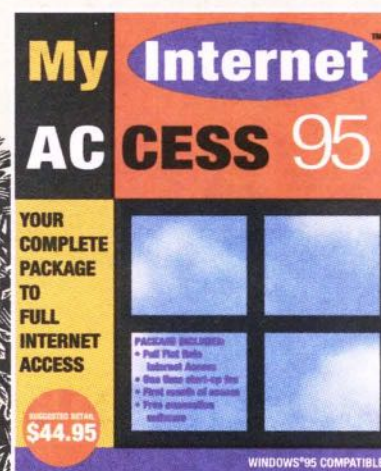
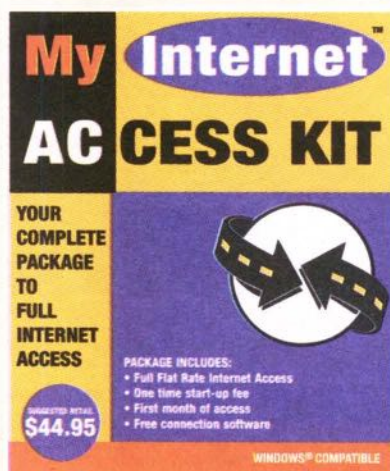
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